

**2018
MAINE
HIGH SCHOOL
MOCK TRIAL
CASE**

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF NEW JUSTICE COUNTY
STATE OF MAINE

State of Maine

)

)

v.

)

)

Alex Buckley

)

**Criminal Action
CR-2018-MT**

NOTE: The names of the characters, places, events, and circumstances in this mock trial case are intended to be fictitious.

****This year's case has been modified from a Carolina Center for Civic Education competition fact pattern.
The case was authored by University of Georgia law student Elise Wilson and CCCE State Coordinator Susan Johnson.
The case has been adapted by Amanda J. Doherty, Esq.*

WITNESSES

The following witnesses will be available to be called by the parties:

Prosecution

1. Dakota Pope, student
2. Lupe Rodriguez, guidance counselor
3. Emerson Burke, APD Division Chief & CSI

Defense

1. Alex Buckley, defendant
2. Misha Vadim, store owner
3. Kennedy Felder, forensic psychologist

All witnesses may be female or male.

EXHIBITS

1. Arcadia Police Department Report
 - A. Arrest Report
 - B. Addendum: Witness Interview Summaries
2. Arcadia Police Department photographs taken on May 20, 2017
 - A. Spaller Dormitory
 - B. Gasoline can recovered from the scene
 - C. Uniform worn by Alex Buckley at the time of Buckley's arrest
3. Gas _N Go Receipt, May 19, 2017
4. Map of Arcadia Forest Preparatory Academy
5. Text messages recovered from the phone of victim Carly Walsh
6. Emails between Lupe Rodriguez and Alex Buckley
7. Arcadia Forest Preparatory Academy Incident Report

STATE OF MAINE
NEW JUSTICE, ss.

SUPERIOR COURT
CRIMINAL ACTION
DOCKET NO. CR-2018-MT

STATE OF MAINE

v.

INDICTMENT

ALEX BUCKLEY

THE GRAND JURY CHARGES:

COUNT 1:

17-A M.R.S.A. §203(1)(A)
Seq No: 4248
MANSLAUGHTER
CLASS A

On or about May 19, 2017, in NEW JUSTICE County, Maine, **ALEX BUCKLEY**, did recklessly, or with criminal negligence, cause the death of another human being, Carly Walsh.

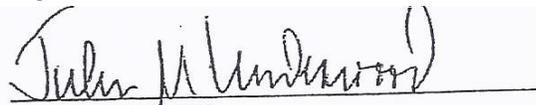
COUNT 2:

17-A M.R.S.A. §802(1)(A)
Seq No: 776
ARSON
CLASS A

On or about May 19, 2017, in NEW JUSTICE County, Maine, **ALEX BUCKLEY**, did start, cause, or maintain a fire or explosion on the property of another with the intent to damage or destroy property thereon.

DATED: January 3, 2018

A TRUE BILL

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julian M. Underwood", is written over a horizontal line.

FOREMAN

LEGAL AUTHORITIES

Statutory Law

17-A M.R.S.A. §203 Manslaughter

1. A person is guilty of Manslaughter if that person:
 - A. Recklessly, or with criminal negligence, causes the death of another human being. Violation of this paragraph is a Class A crime.

17-A M.R.S.A. §802. Arson

1. A person is guilty of arson if he starts, causes, or maintains a fire or explosion;
 - A. On the property of another with the intent to damage or destroy property thereon; or
 - B. On his own property or the property of another
 - i. with the intent to enable any person to collect insurance proceeds for the loss caused by the fire or explosion; or
 - ii. which recklessly endangers any person or the property of another.
2. *[Omitted]*.
3. Arson is a Class A crime.

17-A M.R.S.A. §35. Definitions of Culpable States of Mind

1. "Intentionally."
 - A. A person acts intentionally with respect to a result of the person's conduct when it is the person's conscious object to cause such a result.
 - B. A person acts intentionally with respect to attendant circumstances when the person is aware of the existence of such circumstances or believes that they exist.
2. "Knowingly."
 - A. A person acts knowingly with respect to a result of the person's conduct when the person is aware that it is practically certain that the person's conduct will cause such a result.
 - B. A person acts knowingly with respect to attendant circumstances when the person is aware that such circumstances exist.
3. "Recklessly."
 - A. A person acts recklessly with respect to a result of the person's conduct when the person consciously disregards a risk that the person's conduct will cause such a result.
 - B. A person acts recklessly with respect to attendant circumstances when the person consciously disregards a risk that such circumstances exist.
 - C. For purposes of this subsection, the disregard of the risk, when viewed in light of the nature and purpose of the person's conduct and the circumstances known to the person, must involve a gross deviation from the standard of conduct that a reasonable and prudent person would observe in the same situation.
4. "Criminal negligence."
 - A. A person acts with criminal negligence with respect to a result of the person's conduct when the person fails to be aware of a risk that the person's conduct will cause such a result.
 - B. A person acts with criminal negligence with respect to attendant circumstances when the person fails to be aware of a risk that such circumstances exist.

- C. For purposes of this subsection, the failure to be aware of the risk, when viewed in light of the nature and purpose of the person's conduct and the circumstances known to the person, must involve a gross deviation from the standard of conduct that a reasonable and prudent person would observe in the same situation.

STIPULATIONS

1. All stipulations included in the problem are authentic and accurate in all respects and no objections to the authenticity of the exhibits will be entertained.
2. The fact summary provides background information only. Witnesses may testify to information contained in the fact summary only if it is also found in their witness statement.
3. The signatures on the Witness Statements and other documents are authentic. If asked, a witness must acknowledge signing the document(s). The statements are deemed to be given under oath or affirmation.
4. All witnesses reviewed their affidavits and reports immediately prior to trial and were given an opportunity to revise them. None did so. All witnesses affirm the truthfulness of everything stated in their affidavits. When preparing and reviewing their sworn statements, all witnesses were instructed to include everything that they know may be relevant to their testimony.
5. All documents, signatures, and exhibits (including exhibit timestamps) included in the case materials are authentic; no objections to the authenticity of any documents will be entertained. Both parties must still lay proper foundation prior to entering evidence, and both parties reserve the right to dispute any legal or factual conclusions based on these items and to make objections other than to authenticity.
6. The chain of custody of the evidence may not be contested.
7. No Miranda issues exist.
8. Both parties also waive all objections and motions based on privilege.
9. No motions to dismiss the indictment are allowed.
10. The following facts are stipulated:
 - A. The case of State v. Buckley has been bifurcated. This trial concerns only the guilt phase. No evidence that goes solely to the extent of the penalty faced by Buckley may be presented by either party.
 - B. Alex Buckley has entered a plea of not guilty to all indicted charges and has not indicated intent to raise any affirmative defense.
 - C. Carly Walsh died at 9:47 a.m. on May 20, 2017. Her death was caused by sepsis and multi-organ failure due to full-body third degree burns.
 - D. All objections to Exhibit 1.A, the Arrest Report prepared by the arresting officer of the Arcadia Police Department, have been waived. If offered, it is admissible by either party at any time the record is open without further foundation. However, both parties reserve the right to object to Exhibit 1.B, the addendum to Exhibit 1.A, regarding witness interviews.
 - E. Alex Buckley waived the right against self-incrimination under the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution and will testify. Either party may refer to Buckley's decision to testify throughout trial.
 - F. No witness currently possesses any physical injury relating to or resulting from the events of May 19, 2017 or any other events materially relevant to this case.
 - G. Todd Larkin is currently studying abroad in an exchange student program through Eden University and was not able to be subpoenaed to testify. He has been declared unavailable as a witness.
 - H. Alex Buckley was taken into custody at 11:40 p.m. on May 19, 2017 in the parking lot adjacent to Spaller Dorm on the Arcadia Forest Academy campus.
 - I. Exhibit 3 – receipt – says that the location of gas station is Arcadia, Utopia. Treat the exhibit as saying Arcadia, **Maine**.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF NEW JUSTICE COUNTY
STATE OF MAINE

State of Maine)	
)	Criminal Action
v.)	CR-2017-MT
)	
Terry Jackson)	

THE CHARGE OF THE COURT
[For information *only* – not to be read in open court]

Members of the Jury:

You are considering the case of the State of Maine versus Alex Buckley. The Defendant in this case has been indicted by the Grand Jury of this county for the offense of Manslaughter.

The indictment reads as follows: (*Cover allegations of indictment*)

This indictment was returned into Court on the 3rd day of January, 2018.

To this indictment the Defendant has entered a plea of Not Guilty, and this makes the issue which you have been selected, sworn, and impaneled to try.

I caution you that the fact that this Defendant has been indicted by the grand jury is no evidence of her/his guilt. You should not consider the indictment as evidence or implication of guilt. Neither is the plea of Not Guilty to be considered evidence.

This Defendant is presumed to be innocent until proven guilty. The Defendant enters upon the trial in this case with a presumption of innocence in her/his favor. This presumption remains with the Defendant unless and until it is overcome by the State with evidence which is sufficient to convince you beyond a reasonable doubt that the Defendant is guilty of the offense charged

No person shall be convicted of any crime unless and until each element of the crime is proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

The burden of proof rests upon the state to prove every material allegation of the indictment and every essential element of the crime charged beyond a reasonable doubt.

There is no burden of proof upon the Defendant whatsoever, and the burden never shifts to the Defendant to prove innocence. When a defense, except insanity, is raised by the evidence, the burden is on the state to negate or disprove it beyond a reasonable doubt.

However, the state is not required to prove the guilt of the accused beyond all doubt or to a mathematical certainty. A reasonable doubt means just what it says – it is a doubt of a fair-minded, impartial juror, honestly seeking the truth. It is a doubt based upon common sense and reason. It does not mean a vague or arbitrary doubt, but is a doubt for which a reason can be given arising from a consideration of the evidence, a lack of evidence, a conflict in the evidence, or any combination of these.

If after giving consideration to all the facts and circumstances of this case, your minds are wavering, unsettled or unsatisfied, then that is a doubt of the law, and you should acquit the Defendant; but if that doubt does not exist in your minds as to the guilt of the accused, then you would be authorized to convict the Defendant.

If the state fails to prove the Defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, it would be your duty to acquit the Defendant.

You must determine the credibility or believability of the witnesses. It is for you to determine what witness or witnesses you will believe and which witness or witnesses you will not believe, if there are some you do not believe.

In passing upon their credibility, you may consider all the facts and circumstances of the case, the witnesses manner of testifying, their intelligence, their interest or lack of interest, their means and opportunity for knowing the facts which they testify about, the nature of the facts which they testify about, the probability or improbability of their testimony, and of the occurrences about which they testify. You may also consider their personal credibility insofar as it may legitimately appear from the trial of this case.

When you consider the evidence in this case, if you find a conflict you should settle this conflict, if you can, without believing that any witness made a false statement. If you cannot do this, then you should believe that witness or those witnesses you think most entitled to be believed.

You must determine what testimony you will believe and what testimony you will not believe.

Members of the jury, it is my duty and responsibility to ascertain the law applicable to this case and to instruct you on that law, by which you are bound. It is your responsibility to ascertain the facts of the case from all the evidence presented. It then becomes your duty and responsibility to apply the law I give you in the charge to the facts as you find them to be.

Evidence is the means by which any fact which is put at issue is established or disproved. Evidence includes all the testimony of the witnesses and the exhibits admitted during the trial. It also includes any facts agreed to by counsel. It does not include the indictment or the opening statements and closing arguments by the attorneys.

Evidence may be either direct or circumstantial or both. Direct evidence is evidence which points immediately to the question at issue. Evidence may also be used to prove a fact by inference. This is referred to as circumstantial evidence. Circumstantial evidence is the proof of facts or circumstances, by direct evidence, from which you may infer other related or connected facts which are reasonable and justified in the light of your experience. To warrant a conviction on circumstantial evidence, the proven facts must not only be consistent with the theory of guilt but must exclude every other reasonable theory other than the guilt of the accused. The comparative weight of circumstantial evidence and direct evidence, on any given issue, is a question of fact for the jury to decide.

Testimony may have been given by certain witnesses who, in law, are termed experts. The law permits with expertise in certain areas to give their opinions derived from their knowledge of that area. The weight which is given to the testimony of expert witnesses is a question to be determined by the jury. The testimony of an expert, like that of any other witness, is to be received by you and given only such weight as you it is properly entitled to receive. You are not required to accept the opinion testimony of any witness, expert or otherwise.

You are not required to accept the opinion testimony of any witness, expert or otherwise.

To impeach a witness is to prove that he witness is unworthy of belief. A witness may be impeached by:

- a. Disproving the facts to which the witness testified;
- b. Proof of general bad character;
- c. Proof that the witness had been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude;
- d. Proof that contradictory statements have previously been made by the witness regarding matters relevant to the witness' testimony and to the case.

If you find that a witness is impeached by b., c., or d., above proof of the general good character of the witness may be shown. The effect of the evidence is to be determined by the jury.

If any attempt has been made in this case to impeach any witness by proof of contradictory statements previously made, you must determine from the evidence:

- A. First, whether any such statements were made;
- B. Second, whether they were contradictory to any statements the witness made on the witness stand; and
- C. Third, whether it was material to the witness' testimony and to the case.

If you find that a witness has been successfully impeached by proof of previous contradictory statements, you may disregard that testimony, unless it is corroborated by other creditable testimony, and the credit to be given to the balance of the testimony of the witness would be for you to determine.

It is for you to determine whether or not a witness has been impeached and to determine the credibility of such witness and the weight the witness's testimony shall receive in the consideration of the case.

Should you find that any witness, prior to the witness's testimony in this case from the witness stand has made any statement inconsistent with that witness' testimony from the stand in this case, and that such prior inconsistent statement is material to the case and witness' testimony, then you are authorized to consider that prior statement, not only for purposes of impeachment, but also as substantive evidence in the case.

This Defendant is charged with the offenses of Manslaughter and Arson. *(Cover elements and definitions on the "LEGAL AUTHORITIES: Statutory Law page of the materials)*

If, after considering the testimony and evidence presented to you, together with the charge of the Court, you find and believe, beyond a reasonable doubt, that the defendant did, on or about the date and time alleged, commit the offense alleged, you would be authorized to find the defendant guilty the offense, and, in that event, the form of your verdict would be: "We, the jury, find the defendant Guilty."

If you do not believe that the defendant is guilty of any offenses, or if you have any reasonable doubt as to the defendant's guilt, then it would be your duty to acquit the defendant, in which event the form of your verdict would be: "We, the jury, find the defendant Not Guilty."

You are only to be concerned about the guilt or innocence of the defendant. You are not to concern yourselves with punishment.

Whatever your verdict is, it must be unanimous, meaning agreed to by all jury members. The verdict must be signed by one of your members as foreperson, dated, and returned to be published in open Court.

One of your first duties in the jury room will be to select one of your members to act as foreperson, who will preside over your deliberations and who will sign the verdict to which all twelve of you freely and voluntarily agree.

You should start your deliberations with an open mind. Consult with one another and consider each other's views. Each of you must decide this case for yourself, but you should do so only after a discussion and consideration of the case with your fellow jurors. Do not hesitate to change an opinion if convinced that it is wrong. However, you should never surrender an honest opinion in order to be congenial or to reach a verdict solely because of the opinions of the other jurors.

No ruling nor comment which the Court has made during the progress of the trial is to be viewed as the Court's opinion upon the facts of this case, the credibility of the witnesses, the evidence, nor the guilt or innocence of the Defendant.

You may now retire to the jury room, but do not begin your deliberations until you receive the indictment and any evidence which was admitted during the course of this trial.

Bailiff, please escort the jury to their room for deliberations.

AFFIDAVIT OF DAKOTA POPE

1 My name is Dakota Pope. I just graduated from Arcadia Forest Preparatory
2 Academy this spring, and I'll be attending Rollins College in Florida this fall. I know
3 Rollins isn't the most famous college in the world, but it has a beautiful campus and
4 small classes, and they're giving me a good scholarship. And honestly, after everything
5 that happened to Carly Walsh, I'm glad to leave Maine.

6 Carly was my best friend. She was really competitive in everything she did. She
7 was the captain of the girls' soccer team for two years, and she joined the mock trial and
8 Science Olympiad teams. Despite how hard she pushed herself, Carly was a really nice
9 person. She went out of her way to be friends with everyone. If there was a big exam,
10 she'd organize a study group and buy all the pizza, or if there was a school dance, she'd
11 invite all the girls over to get ready. Her parents paid extra for her to have a single room
12 in Spaller Dorm, so it was a great place to hang out with other students. Our student
13 IDs give us access to all campus buildings until 10 p.m. on weekdays and 11:30 p.m.
14 Friday to Sunday. No one without an active student ID can get in, and outside those
15 hours, students can only get into their own dorms.

16 Until the start of our senior year, the only person I can think of who was ever
17 mean to Carly was her ex-boyfriend, Todd Larkin. Todd was a year older than Carly
18 and me, and he dated her for half of our sophomore and most of our junior year. At
19 first, Todd seemed like the perfect boyfriend for Carly since he was captain of the
20 football team and very popular. They were quite an —item|| at all the school dances and
21 social events. But by the end of our sophomore year, things had changed. For one thing,
22 Todd wasn't much of a student. He seemed to be okay with earning C's, and he forced
23 Carly to skip study groups to spend time with him. Todd was controlling like that in
24 most aspects of their relationship. He would get mad at her for speaking to or texting
25 other guys. Once he even accused her of cheating on him. Sometimes I noticed bruises
26 on Carly's arms, but when I asked her about them, she said she got them playing soccer.

27 I'd watched some of the games and they did get pretty physical, and I didn't think
28 Carly would lie to me.

29 Over the summer, I thought things between them were getting better. Carly and
30 Todd were both taking classes in summer school, and they spent a lot of time together.
31 Carly sent me photos of them swimming and going to cookouts, and I couldn't see any
32 bruises, though Carly had put filters on the pictures. But when I came back to school in
33 the fall and the bruises were back – months away from soccer season – I confronted her.
34 This time she admitted it was Todd. She said Todd would sometimes grab her too hard
35 or even hit her, but she insisted it was deserved or they were just playing and Todd
36 didn't know his own strength. I wasn't so sure, and I told her that she needed to go to
37 the school administration, but she said no. She said Todd would get upset if she told
38 anyone, and she begged me to keep it to myself. I never actually saw Todd grab her or
39 treat her roughly our junior year, so I did as Carly asked. But when he graduated in
40 2016 and Carly ended the relationship, I was glad.

41 Todd didn't take it too well at first, and he even sent her some pretty scary texts
42 that summer, which Carly showed to me. But as far as I know, no one at Arcadia Forest
43 heard from him after he left for college at Eden University, four hours away from
44 Arcadia. I'd been friends with Todd on Facebook since my sophomore year, and I still
45 read his posts sometimes. In early December of 2016 Todd posted photos of his new
46 girlfriend at Eden University. One week later he posted, complaining that his dad had
47 taken away his car because he'd gotten a DUI and had lost his license for 6 months. His
48 relationship status was unchanged, though. I was relieved on both counts – Todd had
49 no reason to come back to Arcadia Forest, and now he had no way to get here. But just
50 as everything with Todd was resolved, Alex Buckley started acting crazy toward Carly.

51 Every semester when grades were released, the school posted GPA and class
52 rank data on the student portal of the school website. At the end of our junior year,
53 Carly found out she was in the running to be our class's valedictorian and receive the
54 Williamson Scholarship. I'm not sure who Mr. Williamson was, but he must've been a
55 pretty big deal. His scholarship gives the class valedictorian a free ride to the college of

56 their choice every year. I didn't have the grades to care much about it, but I know Carly
57 did. She talked about it all the time; whenever there was a project, a test, or even a
58 homework assignment, Carly would shut herself in her room studying, saying that was
59 the only way she could earn the Williamson. She didn't need the money -- her family
60 was well-off. I assumed she just saw it as another competition to win.

61 Alex Buckley was Carly's biggest competition for the Williamson Scholarship.
62 Alex was on scholarship to Arcadia Forest, and Alex had retained the top spot in our
63 class for most of our first three years. Alex was a science buff, and Alex took every AP
64 course Arcadia Forest offered except AP Art. Alex managed to ace nearly every class,
65 join a few clubs, run cross country, and work a job at a gas station down the road all at
66 the same time, even if it meant sometimes going to school events in a work uniform.

67 Alex and I weren't great friends or anything, but we had a lot of classes together,
68 and Alex was clearly brilliant. The first couple years of high school, Alex would
69 sometimes come to Carly's study groups to help people out, which I really appreciated.
70 But when the class ranks were posted at the end of the 2016 spring semester, that all
71 changed. Carly and I were looking at the ranks on a computer in the library when Alex
72 walked up. Alex saw that Carly's GPA was just barely higher than Alex's and became
73 angry, glaring at Carly and kicking over a chair before stomping out of the room.

74 When the fall semester of our senior year began, Carly sometimes invited Alex
75 over to study as she always had. But Alex would say no because Alex —didn't want to
76 help Carly steal the Williamson,|| or because, —if Carly is really the best, she should be
77 able to ace the test without my help.|| As the year went on, Alex's comments became
78 more and more aggressive, and I started to feel uncomfortable just being around Alex.
79 Sometimes in AP Calculus, I saw Alex scowling angrily at Carly when Carly was looking
80 the other way. If Alex saw me watching, Alex would look down and start working on a
81 math problem. It was strange. In the spring, Alex even punched a wall after Carly scored
82 higher than Alex on one Calculus test. Alex had to wear a brace on Alex's right hand
83 until right around our final exams. Alex's attitude concerned Carly, but it also made her
84 want to work harder. Carly told me that even if Alex needed the money, Carly didn't

85 want the scholarship to go to someone who was so obsessed and hyper-competitive.

86 Carly's hard work paid off. Going into final exams in May, Carly had all A's, and
87 Alex was on the verge of getting a B in AP Calculus BC. Carly tried to be nice about it,
88 and she even invited Alex to a math and science study group at her room in Spaller Dorm
89 the Friday before finals. But, unsurprisingly, Alex turned down the invitation because it
90 might help Carly. Alex wasn't the only one to decline the invitation, though. Everyone
91 Carly invited bailed to go to the Finals Dance instead. It's a huge tradition, like a prom
92 but even better. It starts at 9 p.m. and ends at midnight, and almost every senior goes
93 since it's their last dance at Arcadia Forest. But Carly didn't want to attend. Carly's leg
94 had been in a cast since she broke it at the first soccer game in April, and she said if she
95 couldn't dance, she might as well study. I didn't want her to be stuck all alone, so I said
96 I'd come study, too. If only I'd known what would happen. I wish I'd convinced her to
97 meet in the library or go to the dance anyway; then maybe she'd still be here.

98 That night, May 19, I got to Carly's third floor dorm room just after 9 p.m.

99 Everyone else had already left for the dance; I didn't see or hear anyone else in the
100 dorm. We ordered a pizza, grabbed some sodas from the vending machines, and got to
101 work. By about 10:55, we had finished the pizza and were getting a little burnt out from
102 studying. Carly was sitting at her desk in the far corner nearest the door, while I was on
103 the other side of the room, beside the window. She called me over to watch a funny
104 video on her computer, and as I was getting up to go back to my chair, I started to smell
105 gasoline. I thought that maybe I was delusional because I was so tired, but then I saw
106 fluid coming under the door. Seconds later, everything ignited.

107 I didn't know what to do. We didn't have any water or any way to put the fire
108 out, and my phone was dead so I couldn't call for help. The fire alarm started blaring,
109 but the sprinklers didn't come on immediately. I pulled the window open in the hopes
110 that we could escape. I could hear Carly coughing a lot from the smoke, and I reached
111 for her hand and motioned to the window. I told her to jump first, and then I would
112 jump and make sure we both got away safely. It was a long way down, but there was
113 grass outside the window, and we had no other option. Carly shook her head no,

114 motioned to her leg, and told me through her coughs to take her unlocked phone, get
115 out and call for help. That was the last thing she ever said to me, possibly to anyone.

116 I did what Carly said. I jumped out the window. I landed really hard on my right
117 side, and I felt an immediate pain in both my right leg and my right wrist. I tried to get
118 up and find Carly's phone to call 911, but it hurt too much to move. Panicking, I looked
119 around for someone to help me, and I saw a person walking rapidly away from the
120 dorm toward the parking lot. They were wearing a yellow collared shirt and dark pants,
121 and they were carrying a bright red object that looked like a plastic gas container. I
122 could not tell which hand the person was using to carry the object. The clothes looked a
123 lot like the uniforms they wear at the gas station where Alex Buckley works. The person
124 was far enough away that I couldn't see their face, but they were the same height and
125 had the same hair color as Alex. I called out to them for help, but they didn't turn
126 around. They seemed startled because they tripped over the curb, dropped the gas can,
127 and got up and ran into parking lot, ducking behind a dark colored SUV.

128 A few seconds later, I heard voices. It was two juniors, Ana Gandhi and Don
129 Zacek, running toward me, dressed like they'd been at the dance. They told me that
130 they had called 911 and help was on the way. I couldn't stand up, so Ana and Don
131 found Carly's phone, grabbed under my arms, and pulled me farther away from the
132 building. It hurt like crazy, but the fire was growing quickly, so we needed to get as far
133 away as we could.

134 It took the firefighters five whole minutes to arrive, and at least another minute
135 for police and the paramedics. It seemed like an eternity. A firefighter asked me if I
136 knew of anyone still in the building, and I frantically told them Carly was trapped
137 inside because of her leg. Then EMTs put me on a gurney and took me to an ambulance,
138 where a cop asked if I had any idea what happened. I told him about the gasoline and
139 the person in the yellow shirt and gave him Carly's phone. Right then the firefighters
140 ran up with a person they'd just pulled out of the building. The person was burned
141 from head to toe and so disfigured that I couldn't immediately tell who it was. But I
142 could see the remnants of a cast on their right leg, and I knew that it was Carly.

143 The EMTs surrounded her while the ambulance rushed us to the hospital. We
144 were both taken right into surgery. The next thing I knew, I woke up in the recovery
145 room with casts on my right leg and wrist. I tried asking about Carly, but no one would
146 talk with me. I later learned that she died a few hours after we got to the hospital. The
147 doctors tried everything to save her, but she was too badly burned. I never even got to
148 say good-bye. If only I'd made Carly go through the window first. I'm not sure I can
149 ever forgive myself.

150 When I got out of the hospital a few days later, I heard that they had arrested Alex
151 Buckley for Carly's murder. Some people thought it could have been Todd Larkin, but I
152 know it was Alex. Alex always got so angry when Carly did well, and Alex talked about
153 the Williamson as —my scholarship and no one else's. Besides, Todd is at least half a foot
154 taller than Alex; I would have recognized Todd if he had been in the parking lot that
155 night. At least Alex's plan didn't work: the school cancelled exams and donated the 2017
156 Williamson award to charity in Carly's honor. But that's not enough. I want Alex to pay
157 for what happened to Carly, and I hope Alex rots in jail for the rest of Alex's life.

158 Of the available exhibits, I am familiar with the following and only the following:
159 Exhibit 2.B looks like the gas canister I saw the person carrying on May 19. Exhibit 2.C.
160 is the uniform for workers at Gas _N Go. Exhibit 4 is a map of Arcadia Forest
161 Preparatory Academy and the surrounding area. Exhibit 5 is an accurate screenshot of
162 texts Carly received during the summer of 2016, which she showed to me at that time. I
163 have also reviewed the statements attributed to me in Exhibit 1.B, and they appear to be
164 a fair and accurate characterization of my conversation with the police on May 19.

Dakota Pope

SIGNATURE

Date: August 3, 2017

AFFIDAVIT OF LUPE RODRIGUEZ

1 My name is Lupe Rodriguez. I am a guidance counselor at Arcadia Forest
2 Preparatory Academy, a prestigious high school in Arcadia, Maine. I was the person
3 responsible for selecting Alex Buckley as a scholarship student to attend Arcadia Forest,
4 and I was also Alex's academic advisor.

5 I've been an advisor at Arcadia Forest since 2008. On average, 450 students attend
6 Arcadia Forest each year, divided evenly among me and the two other advisors. As a
7 guidance counselor, I have many responsibilities. I help students resolve social conflicts if
8 any arise, navigate stress or anxiety if they feel it, and regain good academic standing if
9 they lose it. The biggest part of my job is helping students plan for college.

10 At a private school like Arcadia Forest, advertising is everything, and one of our
11 most important selling points is that we get results. Parents choose Arcadia Forest
12 because we take pride in our students' accomplishments and are invested in their success.
13 It is my job to see that each student graduates and attends their best fit college. With such
14 a large student body, this is a huge responsibility, and one that I take very seriously.
15 When a student enters their senior year, I help them prepare their college applications
16 and even arrange practice interviews if they request them. I encourage our highest
17 achievers to apply to the top universities in the nation. If I see that a student is less skilled
18 academically, I steer them toward universities where they can still achieve success.

19 Finding the right programs and colleges for everyone takes a lot of time and can be
20 a bit stressful. I've never seen this happen at Arcadia Forest, but I've definitely heard of
21 advisors at prep schools losing their jobs when an assigned student doesn't go to college
22 or doesn't graduate. Thankfully, most of our students (or, more accurately, their parents)
23 are extremely self-motivated and don't need a lot of help.

24 One of my favorite parts of my job is getting to know and assist our scholarship
25 students. While most students pay a hefty price to attend this school, each year we admit
26 between eight and twelve low-income students on merit-based scholarships. I helped
27 start this program in 2010 after Arcadia Forest got some bad press about lack of diversity,

28 and I have been a big proponent of it ever since. I think the program benefits everyone:
29 these students help our school by adding socio-economic diversity, and we help them by
30 giving them a first rate education.

31 As a result of my hard work, every single one of our scholarship students has
32 graduated with honors and attended a four-year university. The program's success has
33 generated lots of good press for the school and even resulted in a significant raise for me
34 a few years ago. The only hiccup we've ever had is with Alex Buckley.

35 Alex started school in the fall of 2013. Alex came from a single parent household,
36 and Alex's mother was tasked with caring for both Alex and a younger sibling. From
37 what I gathered, Alex's mother tried to provide Alex with support, but due to stress and
38 finances, she was unable to offer Alex the kind of encouragement and financing necessary
39 to put a child through college. Despite Alex's circumstances, however, Alex was excelling
40 in public school, so when I received Alex's application, I decided that Alex would be a
41 perfect scholarship candidate.

42 Alex's transition from public school to boarding school was a little bumpy, and
43 Alex did have one small incident during freshman year. Alex had joined the Science
44 Olympiad team and was enthusiastic about Alex's robotics project. But when it came time
45 for the regional competition, Alex finished in fourth place, just shy of advancing to the
46 next level. Alex kicked over one of the advancing students' projects, and it caught on fire.
47 Thankfully, no one was hurt. But the project was so damaged that the other student
48 dropped out of the competition, and Alex, now in third place, was allowed to advance.
49 While this helped to foster Alex's interest in science, Alex's teacher advisor and I agreed
50 that Alex's behavior was unacceptable. As a result, I met with Alex once per week for the
51 rest of the semester to talk about anger management and coping strategies. Alex seemed
52 to progress well with my counseling, so at the end of the year, I signed off for Alex to
53 continue at Arcadia Forest without further intervention.

54 Alex excelled academically even as a freshman at Arcadia Forest, proving that I
55 was right to select Alex for our diversity program. Alex not only held the top position in
56 the class, but Alex also joined a few clubs and started a volunteer organization that

57 encouraged our students to serve as tutors at low-income elementary schools in Arcadia.
58 When Alex turned 16, Alex even picked up a job at a gas station nearby to earn some
59 extra money, and Alex's grades were not affected at all. Alex wanted to study chemical
60 engineering at Stanford, and based on Alex's first two years, I believed Alex could do it.

61 In fact, by the middle of Alex's sophomore year, it was clear that Alex might be a
62 contender for the Williamson scholarship. The Williamson is the only full-ride college
63 scholarship we offer, and it is awarded to each class's valedictorian. I knew that if Alex
64 won, not only would Alex benefit, but Alex's success would result in positive publicity
65 for Arcadia Forest and my diversity program. But of course, if someone else won, Alex
66 still had the grades to get into Stanford and could apply for other scholarships.

67 When I told Alex about the Williamson award, Alex was excited – almost too
68 excited – about the prospect of a full merit scholarship. Every time report cards and class
69 ranks came out, Alex would come into my office and ask, –How's my scholarship?|| or
70 –No one's beating me for the Williamson, right?|| Each time, I assured Alex that Alex's
71 top class rank seemed secure. By Alex's junior year, Alex started to act somewhat
72 arrogant about it. When Alex declined to take AP Art, an –easy A|| course that most
73 juniors at Arcadia Forest take, I reminded Alex that doing well on AP courses is the best
74 way to maintain top class ranking. But Alex didn't listen. That decision allowed Carly
75 Walsh, another junior, to just barely pass Alex in the class rankings. I didn't know Carly
76 very well because she wasn't assigned to me, but I had heard good things about her from
77 her teachers and her advisor.

78 When the rankings came out in spring of 2016 and Alex was no longer first, Alex
79 immediately started scrambling to get back to the top position. I helped Alex plan the
80 best senior schedules I could, but I made it clear that with the extra AP course, Carly
81 might have an edge over Alex no matter what. Alex seemed furious. I tried to convince
82 Alex to apply to other scholarships and reminded Alex that Stanford has generous need-
83 based aid programs, but Alex said, –No, I have to stop Carly. If I don't, I can kiss Stanford
84 goodbye. All my hard work will be for nothing. I'll be stuck in menial jobs the rest of my
85 life. The Williamson is my only way out! I have to do whatever it takes to get back on

86 top.|| Alex's response concerned me, but I thought Alex just planned to put even more
87 effort into getting good grades. I didn't think Alex intended to do anything rash.

88 Alex worked harder than any student I have ever seen during senior year. Looking
89 back, perhaps I should have asked Alex more questions or checked in more often, but I
90 always saw Alex as a driven student and I didn't want to do anything to harm Alex's
91 work ethic. However, in the spring, when Alex punched a wall from stress and fractured
92 a hand, I decided to step in. I scheduled a meeting with Alex at the end of April to try and
93 talk about what Alex was feeling.

94 Alex came by for a few minutes on April 26, still wearing a brace. I tried to talk
95 through what happened and get Alex to open up about the anger Alex was experiencing,
96 but it felt like I was getting nowhere – Alex had become irrationally angry about the
97 scholarship and was having a lot of trouble calming down. Although Alex seemed on edge,
98 Alex finally agreed to my game plan: I would give Alex information on three additional
99 scholarship programs, and Alex would complete the applications and meet up with me in
100 three weeks. I thought Alex was likely to receive a good portion of Alex's college tuition if
101 Alex put work into these applications. I reminded Alex that I was always available to read
102 essays, look over resumes, or just talk. Even though Alex seemed irritated, Alex nodded, so
103 I thought Alex would do as I recommended. But Alex was muttering as Alex left. I couldn't
104 make out all the words, but I am certain that I heard Carly's name.

105 I didn't see or hear from Alex during the three-week period. I sent a check-in email
106 on May 10 but received no response. Alex skipped our appointment on May 17. I tried to
107 schedule another meeting with Alex, but Alex's email made it clear Alex wanted no part
108 of that. Based on Alex's emails, I hoped Alex had applied for the other scholarships.
109 However, after investigating further, I couldn't find records of Alex requesting the official
110 transcripts or written teacher recommendations that most scholarships require. Alex
111 could have sent unofficial transcripts, which are available for free online, and requested
112 teacher recommendations in-person instead of through my office. But I don't think that's
113 likely. Alex had always requested through my office in the past, which leads me to

114 believe that Alex never filled those applications out. I did not have a chance to speak with
115 Alex about it before the horrifying events of May 19.

116 On May 20, I was absolutely devastated when I learned that Carly Walsh had been
117 killed in a dorm fire. I was even more shocked to learn that Alex had been arrested when
118 Officer Krishnamurthy interviewed me. I want to believe that Alex is a good person and
119 would never commit such a heinous act, but the way Alex talked about Carly was
120 definitely extreme. I wish I had done more to help Alex; perhaps if I had been more
121 proactive, I could have intervened and prevented this tragedy.

122 I know people have been talking about Todd Larkin as someone who could have
123 been involved. I wasn't Todd's advisor, but I had seen him come into the advising office
124 before. He wasn't the brightest student, and his grades frequently fell so low that he lost
125 academic eligibility to play sports. His father, who is a generous donor to the school,
126 protested (unsuccessfully) to more than one of my colleagues to get Todd's eligibility
127 back. That being said, I never heard of Todd being reported for any physical abuse or
128 violent altercations. With his family's reputation in the community, I don't know how
129 amenable Arcadia Forest students would be to filing a report about Todd, but if one had
130 been created, it would have passed through my office.

131 Of the available exhibits, I am familiar with the following and only the following:
132 The statements attributed to me in Exhibit 1.B appear to be a fair and accurate summary
133 of my conversation with the police on May 20. Exhibit 2.A shows Spaller Dorm after
134 that terrible fire. Exhibit 4 is a map of the school. Exhibit 6 accurately reflects my email
135 correspondence with Alex Buckley during April and May. Exhibit 7 is the disciplinary
136 report I filed during Alex's freshman year; it is the only report in Alex's disciplinary file.

Lupe Rodriguez

SIGNATURE

Date: Aug. 7, 2017



**ARCADIA POLICE DEPARTMENT
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT**

1 **Division Chief:** Emerson Burke
2 **Date:** July 28, 2017
3 **RE:** Case No. 17CR050624
4

5 **SUMMARY**
6

7 Carly Walsh, a senior at Arcadia Forest Preparatory School, died as the result of burns
8 sustained in a fire deliberately set outside her dorm room (321 Spaller Dormitory) on the
9 night of May 19, 2017. Alex Buckley, a classmate of Walsh, threatened Walsh as Buckley
10 grew concerned that Walsh would earn the Williamson Award, a full-ride college
11 scholarship, in Buckley's stead. All evidence points to Buckley as the perpetrator who set
12 fire to Walsh's dorm room, and Buckley has been charged with arson and manslaughter.
13

14 **CREDENTIALS**
15

16 I am the Division Chief of the Criminal Investigation Division of the Arcadia Police
17 Department ("APD"), a position I have held since June of 2015. I earned my Bachelor of
18 Science with Honors in chemistry from Cornell University in 1995 and then attended the
19 University of Illinois at Chicago, earning my Masters of Forensic Science in 1997. I worked
20 for the Chicago Police Department as a forensic specialist from 1997 until 2007, during
21 which time I conducted DNA, fingerprint, and blood spatter analysis for more than 300
22 cases. From 2004-07 I continued working while I obtained my Masters in Forensic
23 Psychology online from Southern New Hampshire University. In 2007, I accepted a
24 detective position in the APD. Admittedly, some of my colleagues in Chicago considered
25 this move a step backward in my career, but I wanted to raise my family in a smaller, safer
26 environment. In 2011 I was promoted to Chief Investigator, and in 2015 I assumed the role
27 of Division Chief in the Criminal Investigation Division of the APD.
28

29 Since 2007 I have attended more than 200 hours of Continuing Professional Education
30 seminars on topics covering the best practices in arson investigations, fingerprint, DNA,
31 and bloodstain pattern analysis, and examination of the criminal mind. I am a member of
32 the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, the International Crime Scene Investigator's
33 Association, the International Association of Crime Analysts, and the American Society of
34 Criminology.
35

36 As Division Chief, I am responsible for overseeing all APD criminal investigations. I
37 analyze or review all evidence relating to major crimes, including, but not limited to,
38 homicide, kidnapping, rape, armed robbery, and arson. This case was no exception, as I
39 personally conducted the investigation into the death of Carly Walsh.
40

41 **BASES OF OPINIONS**

42

43 I relied on the following evidence to reach my conclusions:

- 44 ● Police report filed by Officer Benjamin Krishnamurthy, including summaries of the
45 interviews Officer Krishnamurthy conducted at the scene (Exhibit 1.A & 1.B)
 - 46 ● Physical evidence at or near the crime scene, including (1) fragments of wood and
47 carpet from Spaller Dormitory; (2) the gasoline can located near the dorm; and (3)
48 the clothing that Buckley wore at the time of Buckley's arrest (Exhibits 2.B & 2.C)
 - 49 ● Fingerprint analysis of the gasoline can found at the scene (Exhibit 2.B)
 - 50 ● Gasoline receipt time-stamped 22:34:46 on 5/19/17 from the Gas n' Go station
51 located at 1791 Arcadia Forest Dr., Arcadia, Maine 40422 (Exhibit 3)
 - 52 ● Texts retrieved from Walsh's cell phone (Exhibit 5)
- 53

54 I visited the scene on May 20, 2017 to gather physical evidence from Spaller Dormitory.
55 The photos in Exhibit 2.A accurately depict the building on that day, and Exhibit 4
56 accurately portrays the campus. I did not conduct my own interviews of eyewitnesses to
57 the events of May 19, relying instead on the accounts that Officer Krishnamurthy provided.
58

59 To come to my conclusions, I analyzed (1) the composition of various materials found at
60 the crime scene; (2) the fingerprints found on the gas container; and (3) the interview
61 notes recorded by Officer Krishnamurthy. The methods I used are standard within the field
62 of crime scene analysis and are used by crime scene investigators globally.
63

64 **INVESTIGATION**

65

66 **1. Fire accelerant analysis**

67

68 According to eyewitness Dakota Pope, the fire began in the vicinity of room 321 in Spaller
69 Dormitory. Photographs of the scene were taken on May 20 after the fire chief declared
70 the building safe to enter. At that time, I obtained samples of carpet, wallboard, and
71 flooring from the vicinity of room 321 and the surrounding area. I sealed the samples in
72 airtight metal containers to prevent evaporation of any accelerants used to start the fire.
73

74 I also mapped the areas where the damage was most extensive in order to determine the
75 origin of the fire. My mapping revealed that the charring was most intense outside room
76 321, confirming that the hallway just outside the door to room 321 was the place of origin.

77 Back at the lab, I analyzed the samples using the “passive headspace” method: I inserted
78 carbon strips into the metal cans containing the samples. Next, I warmed the cans and
79 debris, driving the accelerant residue from the debris into the top, or “headspace,” of the
80 containers, where it was absorbed by the carbon strips. The carbon strips were removed
81 from the cans and washed with solvents to release the trapped material; then the solvents
82 were injected into a gas chromatograph to analyze their chemical composition. This
83 method is extremely sensitive and can detect one one-thousandth of a drop of an
84 accelerant. My tests revealed that regular grade gasoline (87 octane) was poured under
85 and on the outside of the door of room 321 and subsequently ignited.
86

87 The burn pattern indicates that approximately one gallon of gasoline was used as the
88 accelerant. The gasoline quickly caught fire, spreading into the room and igniting the
89 surrounding rooms. Due to the presence of thick industrial carpet in the hallway and in the
90 room itself, smoke quickly engulfed the room and the hallway, making it difficult for anyone
91 in the vicinity to see or to breathe. The fire spread quickly throughout the top floor but was
92 contained by the eventual activation of the sprinkler system and the quick response of the
93 Arcadia Fire Department before extensive damage to the lower floors.
94

95 Gas chromatography analysis of miniscule amounts of gasoline remaining in the gas can
96 at the scene revealed that it contained detergents and other additives consistent with both
97 the accelerant used in the fire and the regular gasoline sold at the Gas n’ Go station on
98 Arcadia Forest Drive. The station owner, Misha Vadim, provided a cash receipt for one
99 gallon of gasoline purchased at the station approximately 30 minutes prior to the ignition of
100 the fire. The composition of the sample is also consistent with regular gasoline sold by
101 Sheetz, Wawa, and Exxon stations within a two-mile radius of the school, so it is not
102 possible to definitively conclude that the gasoline was purchased at the Gas n’ Go on
103 Arcadia Forest Drive. However, receipts from those three stations during the hours of 9 to
104 11 p.m. on May 19 did not reveal any purchases of one single gallon of gasoline.
105

106 **2. Fingerprintanalysis**

107

108 Fingerprint analysis compares prints obtained from physical evidence with prints from
109 known individuals, analyzing them for similarities or differences in patterns (arch, loop,
110 whorls) and minutia (ridge endings, bifurcation, and short ridges). Ridge endings are the
111 points at which a ridge, or line, terminates; bifurcations are points at which a single ridge
112 splits in two; short ridges are significantly shorter than average. Our laboratory uses
113 pattern-based algorithms to compare two prints. While the FBI does not require a specific
114 number of matching characteristics to declare a match, the greater the number of points in
115 common, the more reliable the result. Some experts in the field require only 12 points in
116 common to declare a match, while other experts require 20 points in common. Our
117 standard is to declare a match if two samples have 16 or more points in common.

118 Four fingerprints (three full and one partial) were found on the gasoline container retrieved
119 from the scene. I compared those prints against the prints obtained from Alex Buckley
120 during booking. I determined that two of the prints found on the gasoline container
121 matched those of Buckley: (1) A full print from the handle of the container was a 20-point
122 match for the left middle finger of Buckley; and (2) A full print from the screw-on lid of the
123 container was an 18-point match for Buckley's left index finger. A partial print, also taken
124 from the lid of the can, was a seven-point match with Buckley's left thumb.

125
126 One additional full print was obtained from the lid of the can. This print did not match the
127 prints from Alex Buckley, and no match was obtained when the print was run through the
128 federal IAFIS ("Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System") database. Several
129 unidentifiable partial smudges were obtained from the handle and body of the container.

130 131 **3. Interview analysis**

132
133 Officer Benjamin Krishnamurthy interviewed key eyewitnesses as part of his investigation;
134 summaries of those interviews are included in his report (Exhibit 1.B).

135
136 The interviews revealed several key facts that implicate Buckley in this fire. First, Buckley
137 believed that Walsh was about to earn the full-ride college tuition Williamson Award, an
138 award Buckley had demonstrated substantial interest in receiving. Second, Buckley had
139 demonstrated threats of and tendencies toward violence, with respect to property and
140 Buckley's own person. Finally, Buckley had access to gasoline – the accelerant used to
141 start the fire – at Buckley's job at the Gas n' Go station located one mile from the school.

142
143 Based on his investigation at the scene, Officer Krishnamurthy apprehended Alex Buckley
144 at 11:40 p.m. on May 19, 2017 to prevent Buckley from fleeing the area.

145 146 **CONCLUSIONS**

147
148 The evidence demonstrates that Alex Buckley set the fire in Spaller Dormitory on May 19,
149 2017, that led directly to the death of Carly Walsh. Accordingly, on May 20, Alex Buckley
150 was arrested and charged with arson and manslaughter.

151
152 While no eyewitness definitively placed Buckley at the scene, the physical evidence and
153 the testimony of Dakota Pope make it extremely likely that Buckley was present at Spaller
154 Dorm on May 19 when the fire was set. Pope attests that an individual wearing a yellow
155 shirt and dark pants, believed to be the perpetrator, fled the scene in a suspicious manner
156 soon after the fire was set. When apprehended, Alex Buckley was wearing a uniform
157 matching that description: a Gas n' Go yellow polo shirt and dark cargo pants. Pope also
158 reported that the alleged perpetrator dropped the gasoline can that was found at the

159 scene, a can that contained Alex Buckley's fingerprints.

160
161 Admittedly, the timeline makes it a bit difficult for Buckley to reach the scene in time.
162 Buckley clocked out at work from the Gas n' Go at 10:40, and the fire was reported at
163 11:01 by a call to 911 (so it may have begun several minutes prior). Buckley does not own
164 a car, and buses do not run between the gas station and the school at that hour on Friday
165 evening. Still, it would have been possible for Buckley, a member of the school cross
166 country team, to walk briskly or to jog from the gas station to the school in 15 minutes,
167 arriving in time to set the fire.

168
169 Buckley claims that Walsh's former boyfriend, Todd Larkin, purchased one gallon of
170 gasoline at the station on the night of May 19, using a loaner container from Gas n' Go. As
171 already stated, station owner Misha Vadim provided a receipt proving that such a gasoline
172 purchase was made - but since it was a cash purchase, the buyer cannot be
173 corroborated. Security cameras at the station were not working on the night in question, so
174 no videos exist to prove that Larkin made the purchase in question. Although our
175 investigation revealed that Larkin had sent threatening texts to Walsh in late spring and
176 summer of 2016, no other witnesses report seeing Larkin in Arcadia after Larkin graduated
177 in May of 2016 and left for Eden University, four hours from Arcadia.

178
179 Our investigation did confirm that Larkin got into trouble during his first year at Eden U. He
180 failed several courses and was arrested in December 2016 for underage drinking and DUI.
181 Larkin's license was revoked for six months, and Larkin was ordered to complete a 20-
182 hour substance abuse course and pay a \$1,500 fine. As a first-time offender, Larkin's
183 charges were dismissed after successful completion of these requirements. But because
184 of his arrest, Larkin's fingerprints are in the IAFIS database. The prints were tested and
185 determined not to match the prints from the gasoline can obtained during this
186 investigation. Additionally, Larkin was scheduled to move into a summer school dorm the
187 weekend of May 19 - 21, 2017, to repeat courses failed during Larkin's freshman year.
188 Because of this information, Larkin was not considered to be a viable suspect.

189

190 Emerson Burke

SIGNATURE

AFFIDAVIT OF ALEX BUCKLEY

1 My name is Alex Buckley. I was born on April 25, 1999, and I have lived in
2 Maine my whole life. I used to be a senior at Arcadia Forest Preparatory Academy. I
3 was weeks away from graduating and winning one of the highest honors in the whole
4 school, but then I was arrested for this crime that I did not commit.

5 Growing up, I never thought I would be a prep school kid. My dad left when I
6 was pretty young, and my mom worked two jobs to support me and my little brother.
7 We always had food and a place to stay, but we never had money to buy more than the
8 essentials. My mom told me that if I worked hard in school, I could earn a scholarship,
9 go to college, and get a good job. I'm districted to Arcadia High, but it's a pretty
10 dangerous place and they don't offer a lot of advanced classes. So I decided to apply to
11 the scholarship program at Arcadia Forest Prep. After loads of essays and interviews,
12 they let me in, so I packed up my few belongings and went off to boarding school.

13 Arcadia Forest was a complete culture shock. Almost everyone there came from
14 money, and I didn't always fit in. I didn't have a new cellphone like most people, and
15 while I could get texts and send emails, I could never afford data plans that let me text
16 constantly. I mainly used the phone for school, to call my mom, or in emergencies.

17 I saw a lot of people at Arcadia Forest taking the school for granted: missing
18 homework assignments, slacking on projects, or even skipping class. I didn't have that
19 luxury. My mom wouldn't yell at an administrator if I didn't get an A, so I had to work
20 for my grades. And I wanted to make the most of my opportunity. I've always wanted to
21 be an engineer, so I joined the Science Olympiad club. That got off to a rough start after I
22 accidentally knocked over another student's robotics project. It caught on fire, so the
23 student quit the competition. Because of what happened, my guidance counselor forced
24 me to sit through anger management training. But despite all that, I ended up advancing
25 to state finals my freshman year, and Science Olympiad became my favorite club. I made
26 friends there, and those friends even convinced me to join cross-country to get in shape.

27 Sometimes it was hard to balance it all, especially because I had to pick up a job at

28 a Gas _N Go station near campus. The station is open 24/7. I usually worked 20 hours a
29 week, mostly on weekends. I didn't have a car, but my boss, Misha Vadim, understood if
30 I was a little late because the bus wasn't on time. By the middle of my senior year, I even
31 got a promotion! The only bad thing was that the station was about a mile from campus.
32 Some nights when I was scheduled until 10:30 p.m., I wouldn't get off work until 11:00
33 p.m. By that time, the buses wouldn't be running. While the 15 to 20-minute walk to my
34 dorm wasn't bad during the day, it felt a lot longer when I had to do it alone at night.

35 I always thought that I would get the Williamson Scholarship to pay for college. The
36 Williamson – given to the valedictorian – is the most prestigious award at the school. The
37 competition is intense. Every time class ranks are posted, everyone checks to see where they
38 stand. Until my junior year, I had stayed in the top position for our class, and I hoped that I
39 would be a shoo-in to win. But as junior year began, Carly Walsh started catching up to me.
40 She was able to take one more AP course that year than I was, and her GPA in May of 2016
41 was a couple hundredths of a percent higher than mine.

42 I never had anything personal against Carly; we took most of the same rigorous
43 classes and she always seemed to work hard. But I knew that she had the money to go
44 anywhere she wanted without debt – even Harvard or Yale. I wanted to attend Stanford
45 for chemical engineering, but unless I got a huge scholarship, it wouldn't be an option. I
46 tried not to hold it against Carly, but it hurt to watch her trying to take away my future
47 just because she liked being competitive. When she wasn't focused on beating me,
48 though, Carly could be nice. We were in Science Olympiad together for two years, and
49 we even studied for AP exams together during junior year. AP exams don't factor into
50 your GPA, so there was no need to be competitive, and Carly actually helped me out.

51 That being said, Carly and I were not friends, especially not senior year. After
52 Carly passed me in class rank, she was actually pretty rude to me. If she outperformed
53 me, she would laugh at me or call me a –sore loser,|| and once after an AP Calculus test
54 she made me so angry that I punched a wall in the hallway and fractured a couple of
55 bones in my right hand. After the doctor said to avoid writing, typing, and other hand
56 activities for the next month, I realized that I needed to do something about how Carly

57 was making me feel. My school counselor, Lupe Rodriguez, offered to meet with me
58 and help me apply for other scholarships, but I wanted to focus my efforts on the
59 Williamson award. I started working even harder, staying in the library late at night
60 and even bringing textbooks to read behind the counter at work if business was slow. I
61 had never felt this stressed about school in my life, but I didn't want to let Carly take
62 my dream away from me.

63 By the middle of May of 2017, I was feeling pretty good. I had gotten my
64 Stanford acceptance letter, I had studied endlessly for AP Calculus, and I knew that AP
65 Chemistry would be a breeze. My hand was feeling better, too – I hardly ever had to
66 wear the brace the doctor had prescribed. Exams would be exhausting, but I was going
67 to get through them, and I was feeling prepared. Then, on May 19, everything fell apart.

68 That Friday was the last day of spring classes, and exams were scheduled to start
69 the next Monday. But instead of worrying about exams, everyone was talking about the
70 Finals Dance. It's an Arcadia Forest tradition, the last big event seniors can go to before
71 graduation. My friends had been pestering me to go, but honestly, I don't like dances.
72 Carly was hosting a study group, but I wasn't interested. In any case, I was scheduled to
73 work until 10:30 p.m. Even if I wanted to go to the dance, it would have taken me at least
74 an hour to walk home, shower and change, and then walk to the gym. Even if I got off
75 work on time, I would miss all but the last half hour of the dance - unless I went in my
76 silly work uniform. My uniform is an eyesore; I didn't think I would have too much fun
77 in a yellow polo and black cargo pants, so I told everyone I was booked for the night.

78 That day, I got out of class and immediately started getting ready for work since
79 my shift started at 4:30 p.m. The night shift worker often came in late, so I knew I might
80 not get out on time at 10:30 p.m. But that didn't bother me too much; I didn't usually
81 make plans for after work, and I was honestly thankful for the extra time on the clock.
82 Plus, it's unusual to get a bunch of customers that late, so it was pretty easy work.

83 At any rate, that's where I was on May 19 – at work. It was a weird shift right
84 from the start. The station had blown a fuse during a storm earlier that week, and the
85 security cameras weren't working. Misha was in the office on the phone, trying to get

86 the security company to fix them. Ever since the storm, Misha had been telling every
87 employee to be hyper-vigilant if they saw anything out of the ordinary. At some point
88 that evening, Misha told me the night shift worker had called in sick, so Misha would
89 take his place. By 10:35 p.m., I was ready to be done with customer surveillance and go
90 home, but Todd Larkin walked in.

91 I hadn't seen Todd in almost a year, but he was hard to forget: he was loud and he
92 was huge -- at least half a foot taller than I am. He graduated from Arcadia Forest when I
93 was a junior, and from what I know, everyone was happy to see him go. He comes from a
94 really wealthy family in Eden -- his dad owns the Maine Lobsters NBA team -- and he
95 gets away with basically everything. Carly Walsh dated him for almost two years. I never
96 really understood it; no one did. He treated her terribly. Everytime I saw them together,
97 he berated her about not being smart or pretty or thin enough. Sometimes, she even came
98 to class with bruises on her arms, which I assumed were from Todd. Carly ended things
99 when he graduated, and he took it badly. Until May 19, 2017, I thought he had gone off to
100 college and found someone else -- I'd seen pictures he posted on Instagram in early
101 November of 2016, kissing another girl in front of the Eden University football stadium.

102 When Todd came in, he asked if we had any empty gas containers so that I could
103 sell him a single gallon of gas. I was pretty wary of dealing with him alone in the middle
104 of the night, so I tried to make the sale and get him out of the station as quickly as
105 possible. I grabbed the red loaner gas container we keep as a courtesy for customers,
106 charged him for a gallon, and then sent him outside to fill the container. He paid in cash.
107 I don't remember what he was wearing; I didn't notice it, so it probably wasn't anything
108 too out of the ordinary. As I saw Todd turn out of the parking lot, I straightened up the
109 service counter, clocked out in Misha's office, and left.

110 I thought about going to the dance or walking to a fast food place for a quick bite,
111 but I checked my phone, and it was already 10:45 p.m. So I decided to stop by the
112 vending machines at the student union instead. I do that a lot, so I don't remember what I
113 got. Then I headed back to my dorm, Roberts Hall. On the way, I heard sirens. I assumed
114 it was a false alarm -- that someone had burned their popcorn too much and set off the

115 detector – but then I started to smell smoke from the direction of the Spaller Dorm quad. I
116 thought about going to look, but I was tired from work and decided to just go home. All
117 of a sudden, a police officer approached me and asked to see my phone. I had nothing to
118 hide, so I unlocked it and handed it to him. Suddenly he told me I was being taken into
119 custody, handcuffed me, and threw me into the back of a police car. I was completely
120 caught off guard; I had no idea what the police could possibly want with me! The next
121 day, I was shocked when they charged me with arson and manslaughter. It's absolutely
122 insane that they think I'd do this!

123 I have no idea how the fire started or who would do that to Carly. The police
124 should be trying to find the real killer. It was probably Todd Larkin – if anyone wanted
125 to hurt Carly, it was him. But when I tried to tell the police that, they wouldn't listen.
126 They probably know that Todd's rich family would make sure he got away with it, so
127 they decided not to even look for him. They only want to lock someone up, and I'm an
128 easy target. I have to admit, I'm pretty scared.

129 Of the available exhibits, I am familiar with the following and only the following:
130 Exhibit 2.A is a photo of the dorm shown to me by the police. Exhibit 2.B looks like the gas
131 container I loaned to Todd Larkin, though I can't be sure it's the exact same one. Exhibit
132 2.C is my work uniform at Gas _N Go. Exhibit 3 looks like the receipt I printed out for the
133 station's records when I sold the gas to Todd. Exhibit 4 is a map of Arcadia Forest's
134 campus. Exhibit 6 shows emails between me and my guidance counselor, Lupe Rodriguez.
135 Exhibit 7 is a disciplinary report from my freshman year that I had to sign. I have also
136 reviewed the statements attributed to me in Exhibit 1.B, and they appear to be a fair and
137 accurate characterization of my conversation with the police on May 19-20.

Alex Buckley

SIGNATURE

Date: July 26, 2017

AFFIDAVIT OF MISHA VADIM

1 My name is Misha Vadim. I have lived in Maine since I was a teenager. I was not
2 born in the United States, but I am proud to say that I became a citizen on September 11,
3 2011. The 10th anniversary of 9/11, —Patriot Day,|| just seemed like the right time to act.

4 I'm proud, now, to call America my home. Where else could a poor immigrant
5 family start from nothing and after a few years own more than 40 gas stations across five
6 states? My parents sacrificed a lot to bring our family to this country, and I am grateful
7 every day that they did. Watching them start the Gas _N Go business taught me that hard
8 work, diligence, and integrity are the path to success. Growing up, my parents made sure
9 that I learned what it meant to work hard. They had me rotate through every job in the
10 stores before I went off to University of Maine, where I earned my business degree with
11 honors. After I graduated in 2009, my dad made me the manager of our store in Eden.
12 Three years later he promoted me to regional manager for five stores in New Justice
13 County, where I've tripled the overall sales in just five years.

14 As regional manager, I oversee the hiring and training of our store managers,
15 develop our regional marketing plan, and make sure that each store is running efficiently.
16 I also lead quarterly trainings for all of our employees, including part-timers. Our
17 cashiers are the face of our brand, so I want to make sure they're a good fit and uphold
18 our company motto: —We go the extra mile so you don't have to.|| Also, employee morale
19 is important to me. I want our employees to know that we care about them, so I chat with
20 them individually when I visit the stores each week.

21 My favorite store is the one on Arcadia Forest Drive in Arcadia. It's not too far from
22 the interstate, so it's open 24/7. It's also only a mile from that expensive boarding school,
23 Arcadia Forest Preparatory Academy. Students from the school are frequent customers.
24 Many drive expensive cars I could never have afforded at their age. They dress in designer
25 clothes and spend ridiculous amounts on snack food and energy drinks. I'll bet they
26 receive an allowance from their parents and never have to earn their own money.

27 In the second week of April this year, the store manager at the Arcadia Forest
28 Drive store went on maternity leave for two months, so I picked up many of her shifts.

29 That's when I really got to know Alex Buckley, a high school student we hired in 2015.
30 Alex impressed the store manager from the start, and I could see why. Alex asked lots of
31 questions at the quarterly trainings and was eager to learn. Whenever I visited that store,
32 I could see that Alex was a hard worker and great with the customers.

33 Alex started working as a cashier right after Alex turned sixteen. I was surprised
34 that a student at the prep school applied for a job, but then I learned that Alex was
35 attending on a full scholarship. The number of activities on Alex's resume impressed me,
36 and Alex's reference, a teacher named David Gray, said Alex was a model student with a
37 strong work ethic. When I got to know Alex, I agreed with the teacher's assessment.
38 Alex's mom was a single parent and unable to financially support Alex, so Alex wanted
39 to work as many hours as I would allow. Yet despite that tough background, Alex always
40 had a very upbeat, positive attitude. My family's encouragement had always been so
41 important to me that I wanted to —pay it forward|| by helping Alex. In the years that Alex
42 worked for me, Alex became like family. Whenever I saw Alex, I would ask about Alex's
43 classes and other activities. Alex started showing me quarterly report cards and class
44 rank reports, and I was amazed -- Alex was first in the class in both 2015 and 2016! Alex
45 clearly could achieve anything, with the right resources and support.

46 Because of Alex's initiative and great attitude, Alex was quickly promoted from
47 cashier to head cashier. In December of 2016 the manager promoted Alex to shift
48 supervisor. This change meant that Alex supervised and trained other cashiers, counted
49 the registers as each cashier clocked out, and put the extra cash and checks in the store
50 safe. Alex did an excellent job with these new responsibilities.

51 Soon after I began filling in as store manager in mid-April, Alex reported to work
52 with one hand wrapped up in a brace. Alex told me that several bones were fractured
53 because —I lost my cool for a second.|| I was surprised by that. I offered to let Alex take a
54 few weeks off until the hand healed, but Alex reacted very strongly. —NO!! I mean, thank
55 you, but I really need to work if I can. I promise I'll still be able to do a good job.|| Alex
56 appeared stressed by the very thought of not working, so I dropped the subject.

57 During that time, I noticed that Alex also started bringing in textbooks to study
58 during slow periods. Alex had never done that before, so I made a joke about —Guess
59 you're not succumbing to senioritis, are you?|| Alex looked startled, so I quickly said, —It's
60 a compliment! Most seniors slack off by now, don't they?|| Alex looked extremely upset,
61 saying, —I wish I could! If I keep my top class rank, I'll get a full college scholarship. But if
62 someone else gets in my way and takes my money, I don't know what I'll do.|| A customer
63 came in right then, so we didn't talk any further. But the conversation stuck with me
64 because Alex looked pretty anxious about the whole thing.

65 Even so, I never saw Alex do anything violent, even when stressed. In fact, around
66 the station, Alex was known for being nice to everyone. Alex was cool, calm, and collected
67 when dealing with angry customers, and Alex went out of the way to help Alex's co-
68 workers whenever they were given difficult tasks. It seemed to me like Alex's
69 professionalism carried over into Alex's academic life as well. Even though Alex talked
70 constantly about wanting to be the top student at Arcadia Forest, Alex always spoke
71 respectfully about Alex's classmates. I remember once, Alex was talking about a classmate,
72 Carly something, who was competing against Alex for that top spot. Alex said she was the
73 nicest person Alex had met. More than once, Alex said how glad Alex was to have Carly
74 as a friend, even if she was smarter than Alex. Alex told me that the competition pushed
75 Alex to work harder, and that was why Alex brought so much schoolwork into the station.

76 On May 20, I was stunned when I heard Alex had been arrested and accused of
77 murdering another student by setting a fire in a dorm the night before. I was even more
78 shocked when I learned that the victim was Carly. That was just crazy! When the police
79 came to interview me, I told them they must be mistaken: Carly was Alex's friend, and
80 besides, Alex was working at the store on the evening of May 19. Alex was scheduled
81 from 4:30 – 10:30 p.m. and was definitely at the station, manning a cash register, when I
82 arrived at 9:00 p.m.

83 I remember that night very clearly; I was aggravated to be at the station. Usually I'd
84 be home at that hour on a Friday, but I had to come in to deal with the company that
85 provides our security cameras. We have two cameras outside to cover the gas pumps, and

86 two cameras inside that view the entire store. Lightning had struck a nearby transformer a
87 few days earlier, overheating the circuits and blowing out all the cameras. The security
88 company kept promising to fix them, but no one had shown up yet. It was ridiculous.
89 Even though the store was in a safe area, I paid good money to keep those cameras
90 working, and I was tired of excuses. So I called up the company, asked to speak with a
91 manager, then spent several hours getting passed around and playing phone tag. To add
92 insult to injury, the night shift worker called in at around 9:45 p.m., claiming to be sick,
93 and I had no one to fill in besides me. It was going to be a long night.

94 Around 10:15 p.m., while I was on hold with the security company, I let Alex know
95 that I would take over at 10:30 p.m. and Alex could go home. I vaguely remember waving
96 at Alex around 10:40 p.m. when Alex came into my office to clock out. I don't remember
97 hearing anyone come into the store between 10:15 p.m. and when Alex left, but I had seen
98 cars in the parking lot near the gas pumps. Around midnight, when I walked outside to
99 take out trash, I smelled smoke and saw light in the direction of the prep school. I finally
100 left for home at 6:30 a.m. My house is in the opposite direction, so I didn't learn about the
101 fire at Arcadia Forest Prep until the police came to see me at the station that same day.

102 When the police spoke with me, they asked if Alex had ever purchased or taken
103 gasoline from the station. I said no, not to my knowledge. I also told them that we try to
104 keep one or two inexpensive red plastic gasoline containers at each of our stores to loan to
105 motorists who run out of gas, but I couldn't seem to find the one for the Arcadia Forest
106 Drive store. I didn't know if the store had one the night of the fire, since that's not
107 something I'd confirmed when I began filling in as manager. In checking our cash register
108 receipts for May 19, I found a receipt for one gallon of gas purchased inside the store just
109 after 10:30 p.m. That was an unusually small purchase, and I have no idea who bought it
110 since they paid with cash and we have no security video footage from that night.

111 Like everyone in town, I was horrified to hear that a student died in the fire. The
112 news reports say that Carly was a senior and one of the brightest students in the school
113 – maybe even the top student in the class. What a tragic loss! I cannot imagine what her
114 family and friends are going through. Given how Alex spoke about Carly, I'm sure Alex

115 was just as devastated by her loss as anyone in Arcadia. I hope the police catch the
116 person who did it – because there’s just no way it was Alex.

117 Of the available exhibits, I am familiar with the following and only the following:
118 Exhibit 2.B looks like the type of gas container we usually keep at our stores (although I
119 cannot confirm that it’s from any of the stores I manage). Exhibit 2.C looks to be the
120 uniform that all Gas n’ Go employees are required to wear. Exhibit 3 is a receipt for one
121 gallon of gasoline purchased on May 19, 2017, and it is the only receipt for such a small
122 amount of gasoline that the station collected between 10:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. that
123 evening. Exhibit 4 is a map of Arcadia Forest Preparatory Academy; it also gives
124 information about the direction and distance to the Gas N’ Go gas station my family
125 owns near the school. I have also reviewed the statements attributed to me in Exhibit
126 1.B, and they appear to be a fair and accurate characterization of my conversation with
127 the police on May 20.

Misha Vadim

SIGNATURE

Date: August 8, 2017

REPORT OF DR. KENNEDY FELDER

State v. Buckley: Findings and Conclusions

August 15, 2017

1 **Retention and Compensation**

2 The defense asked me to examine the evidence surrounding Carly Walsh’s death, to
3 develop a criminal profile for the perpetrator, and to see how well that profile fit with Todd
4 Larkin, a person of interest in this case who was only cursorily investigated by the Arcadia
5 Police Department. I spent a total of 45 hours on case preparation, for which I was paid my
6 standard defense consulting rate of \$500/hour. If I testify, I will earn an additional \$5,000 to
7 cover my time and expenses.

8
9 **Background and Qualifications**

10 I am a criminal profiler. In 1982 I received my BA in Criminal Justice from the
11 University of Georgia. To pursue my interest in criminal psychological profiling, I earned my
12 PhD in psychology at the University of Virginia in 1987. I then applied to work at the FBI.
13 After completing the FBI’s training program and working as a field agent for five years, I
14 was promoted to a profiler position at the National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime
15 (“NCAVC”). There, I honed my skills and investigated hundreds of cases involving
16 abduction, homicide, arson, terrorism, and other violent crimes.

17 After 21 years as a profiler, I decided to step back from fieldwork and accept a
18 teaching position with the NCAVC. Since 2013, I have taught criminal investigation and
19 profiling to new FBI recruits looking to join the NCAVC. When asked, I consult for the State
20 or the defense, and I frequently testify as an expert witness in those cases. My consulting
21 rate of \$500/hour only applies when I consult for the defense, as any work done on behalf
22 of the State is considered part of my job with NCAVC. Since 1995, I have testified as an
23 expert at least 45 times, of which approximately 30 were for the defense.

24
25 **Rationale and Methods**

26 While generating a criminal profile isn’t an exact science, it can be an extremely
27 useful tool in an investigation. Creating a profile essentially involves deductive reasoning.
28 Each element of a crime enables profilers to infer facts about the perpetrator based on
29 crime trends, similarity to other cases, and criminal psychology. An accurate profile can
30 help investigators narrow down their suspect pool, targeting their efforts toward those most
31 likely to have committed the crime. Profiling can help officers stay smart and safe as they
32 apprehend violent or dangerous criminals.

33 Criminal profiling is generally a five step investigative process in which a profiler
34 analyzes all available evidence in a case to develop a profile of the likely perpetrator of the
35 crime. First, a profiler considers the specific type of criminal act, comparing it to similar

36 crimes in the past. Next, the profiler conducts a detailed analysis of the crime scene in
37 order to determine how the crime was committed. Factors such as the offender's
38 movements and positioning during the crime, as well as their use of any weapons or
39 physical substances to aid in commission of the crime, clue us into the criminal's thought
40 process during the event. Next we evaluate the victim's activities, contacts, and
41 background to find connections to potential suspects and possible motives for their
42 targeting. In the process, we analyze physical and testimonial evidence with the objective
43 of determining possible and probable motives. Finally, putting it all together, we produce a
44 full profile of the criminal. Depending on the extent of the evidence, the profile may include
45 information about height, build, background, intelligence, drug use, or a host of other
46 factors specific to the probable perpetrator.

47 I began my research in this case by investigating the fundamental details of the
48 crime. First, I gathered information about the criminal act itself, reviewing Exhibits 1.A & 1.B
49 (Police report), Exhibits 2.A, 2.B & 2.C (Crime scene photographs), and Exhibit 4 (Map).
50 This evidence revealed that this incident was an act of arson that specifically targeted Carly
51 Walsh, and that the fire was started with an accelerant, gasoline.

52 From there, I reviewed as much information as I could about the victim. I read the
53 statements of Dakota Pope and Alex Buckley, Exhibit 5 (Text messages recovered from the
54 phone of Carly Walsh) and Exhibit 6 (emails between Alex Buckley and Lupe Rodriguez).
55 Next, I reviewed the forensic evidence associated with the case, including the report of CSI
56 Burke and Exhibit 3 (Gas receipt from Gas n' Go). Finally, I contacted Arcadia Forest Prep
57 and asked for all student disciplinary reports associated with fire. They provided me with
58 only one report, Exhibit 7, a report about Alex Buckley. I asked both the school and
59 Buckley's attorneys for any other reports filed about Buckley and Larkin, and the school
60 provided none. Upon completing my review of the material facts in this case, I was able to
61 create a criminal profile of the perpetrator.

62 **Findings and Conclusions**

63 **A. Type of Arson**

64 The first step in profiling an arson case is to classify it based on mode, motive, and
65 destruction. People light destructive fires for many reasons, from pyromania (an irresistible
66 impulse to set fires) to insurance fraud. In this case, based on the choice of victim and the
67 level of destruction, I was able to conclude that this crime constituted "spite" or "revenge"
68 arson. In cases driven by revenge, fire damage is typically extensive but is focused on the
69 site occupied by the victim. A revenge arsonist's goal is to cause as much harm as possible
70 to the victim, so it is not uncommon for these fires to claim lives. This motivation and the
71 resulting damage distinguish revenge arson from other types of arson. Most arsonists
72 either feel indifferent about harming others or try to avoid it, while revenge arsonists'
73 primary goal is to inflict harm.
74

75 **B. Profile of Revenge Arsonist**

76 A thorough profile includes information about the perpetrator's probable background,
77 intelligence level, prior bad acts, modus operandi, and relationships with others. Revenge
78 arsonists typically come from a lower to lower-middle class household. They are also
79 typically of lower intelligence; they rarely succeed in school and often have lower IQs. In
80 this case, where no measures were taken to hide or destroy physical evidence such as the
81 gas container, it is unlikely that the perpetrator possesses a high degree of intelligence.
82 Despite their relative lack of intelligence, however, revenge arsonists typically have at least
83 10 years of formal education.

84 Revenge arsonists typically display a history of minor violence. People who prefer
85 fire as a weapon tend to light smaller fires earlier in life as a way to get out their anger.
86 Typically they also lash out at friends or loved ones when stressed. In most cases, we look
87 for someone with either a criminal record or a history of violent behavior. In many
88 instances, these actions will coincide with use or abuse of alcohol or other drugs.

89 Revenge arsonists almost always follow a similar pattern in the method they use to
90 commit their crimes. Usually these perpetrators set the fires in or around the community
91 where they live. Yet even if they reside close to the crime scene, revenge arsonists tend to
92 stay away from the site once they start the fire. Typically, they use a personal vehicle to get
93 to their intended burn site, and they leave in that vehicle almost immediately after setting
94 the fire. Unlike pyromaniacs or thrill seeking arsonists, these arsonists do not watch their
95 fires. Instead, they light the fire and flee the scene for hours to days after the incident, and
96 they usually focus on developing a strong alibi.

97 Finally, revenge arsonists follow a similar pattern in their relationships, both with the
98 victim and with others. These individuals see the world as constantly cheating them, and
99 their relationships are typically unhealthy and short-lived. They value a high degree of
100 control in their relationships and may tend to exhibit abusive behaviors for the duration of
101 any relationship. When they view their victim as having hurt or cheated them, arson serves
102 as a way to vengefully harm the victim; they see it as a *quid pro quo*. Because these
103 arsonists target a specific individual and don't necessarily idolize fire itself, they pose a low
104 threat of committing a series of similar acts in the short term.

105
106 **C. Application to Todd Larkin**

107 Todd Larkin fits the profile of a revenge arsonist in a number of significant ways, so I
108 am concerned by the Arcadia Police Department's ("APD's") quick dismissal of Todd as the
109 possible perpetrator. While I understand the arresting officer's reluctance to believe a
110 detainee's claim about an alternative suspect, I found no evidence that the APD made any
111 real attempt to verify or disprove that Larkin was present at or near Arcadia Forest
112 Preparatory Academy on May 19. The APD reported that Larkin was presumed to be in
113 Eden moving into his summer school dorm on the weekend of May 19-21, but no witness

114 confirmed that assumption. Larkin could have been in Arcadia on May 19 and driven to
115 Eden on May 20 or 21.

116 Larkin lost academic standing due to failing grades and had to enroll in summer
117 school at both Arcadia Forest and Eden University to maintain a passing average. Larkin's
118 academic difficulties correspond to the intelligence level I would expect to see in a revenge
119 arsonist. In addition, Larkin's criminal record includes a recent DUI, which signals alcohol
120 abuse, and statements about Larkin reveal a history of violence. Larkin also had access to
121 a vehicle – a dark SUV like the one seen by Pope – and was not found near the site of the
122 fire afterward, two important revenge arsonist profile factors.

123 Larkin's relationship with the victim is even more troubling, as it is laden with both
124 psychological and physical abuse. Larkin used a number of stereotypical abuse and control
125 tactics during his relationship with Walsh. He isolated her from her friends; he constantly
126 criticized her, undermining her self-esteem to make her dependent upon him; and when
127 those tactics failed to control Walsh, Larkin apparently escalated to physical abuse.

128 Larkin's manipulative, domineering behavior stems from the same type of
129 personality that seeks revenge when a relationship ends. Larkin's texts indicated Larkin's
130 perception that Walsh wronged him by ending their relationship. Since it appears that the
131 APD did not bother to corroborate Larkin's whereabouts on the night in question, I cannot
132 rule out the possibility that this fire was Larkin's attempt at revenge.

133

134 **D. Application to Alex Buckley**

135 Although the defense only asked me to focus my investigation on Todd Larkin,
136 having generated this profile, I cannot help but evaluate its application to Alex Buckley.
137 While I must admit that some parts of the profile fit Buckley, several red flags raise serious
138 questions about whether Buckley could be the arsonist. First, Buckley's intelligence level is
139 significantly higher than I would expect of the person who started this fire; it would be highly
140 unusual for a revenge arsonist to graduate second in their high school class. In addition,
141 Buckley's relationship with the victim doesn't immediately give cause for concern; Buckley
142 seemed to have a functioning relationship with Walsh as a colleague in school, if not as a
143 friend. In fact, Buckley seemed to have close, functioning relationships with many of
144 Buckley's peers and with Buckley's boss, another deviation from the profile.

145 In addition, Buckley's behavior at the time of the fire is very different from that of a
146 typical revenge arsonist. Such perpetrators almost never remain at or near the scene of the
147 crime immediately afterward. Instead, these arsonists generally try to place themselves in
148 highly crowded areas that are far from the crime scene, where multiple people can
149 corroborate their alibi. While I can't say with certainty whether or not Buckley's alibi of
150 walking alone to the student union after work is to be believed, I can say that the story
151 Buckley is telling does not fit the typical criminal profile for a revenge arsonist.

152 It is true that there are multiple accounts of Buckley responding violently when
153 Buckley perceived that other students' achievements interfered with Buckley's own
154 success. However, Buckley's school record only included one documented instance of past
155 violent behavior – nearly four years prior – and Buckley claims the incident was purely an
156 accident. Buckley received anger management counseling as a result of that incident, and
157 Buckley's school counselor reported that Buckley learned coping strategies and was able to
158 move on. While Buckley's words to and about Walsh are certainly concerning, Buckley
159 does not fully fit the revenge arsonist profile. It is clear that the Arcadia Police Department
160 rushed to judgment in arresting Buckley within an hour of the incident.

161

162 **E. Oath**

163 I understand I have a duty to update this report if I receive any additional relevant
164 information or reach any additional conclusions prior to trial. I understand that I also have a
165 duty to be truthful and complete in this report, and I have upheld that obligation.

Kennedy Felder

SIGNATURE

ARCADIA POLICE DEPARTMENT RECORDS			
Arrest Report			
New Justice County		Case #: 17CR050624	
Arrestee's Name: (Last, first, middle)		SS#	D.O.B
Buckley	Alex C.	xxx-xx-4723	04/25/1999
Charges:	Booking Number:	Defendant status:	
Arson; manslaughter	02073647	Adult	
Crime Occurred:	Date	Time:	Location:
	05/19/2017 Friday	23:01	Arcadia Forest Preparatory 732 Arcadia Forest Dr. Arcadia, Maine, 40422
Circumstances of Arrest			
Responding Officer:	Officer Benjamin Krishnamurthy		
Victim:	Carly Walsh		
Report of Responding officer:			
<p>On May 19, 2017, I was called to a fire on the campus of Arcadia Forest Preparatory Academy. When I arrived, the New Justice County Fire Department was already on the scene. As Fire Captain Ty Gomez noted, this fire appeared to be deliberately set. Although it caused extensive damage to the dorm, his team was able to contain it before it spread to other buildings. I began interviewing witnesses and collecting evidence. I spoke with several Arcadia Forest students. Based on their accounts of Buckley's interactions with Carly Walsh, and Pope's description of the clothing, height, and hair color of the suspected perpetrator, I had enough evidence to bring Buckley in. I found Buckley in the parking lot near Spaller dorm, wearing the outfit Pope described. Buckley voluntarily gave me Buckley's phone. I then brought Buckley to the station for questioning. Buckley was held overnight and arrested the next day (5/20/17).</p>			

Forensic evidence (collected at the scene):

- A red gasoline container found in the parking lot near Spaller Dorm.
- Alex Buckley's cellular phone, voluntarily handed over to me. Relevant screenshots were catalogued and preserved.
- Carly Walsh's cellular phone, provided by Dakota Pope. Relevant screenshots were catalogued and preserved.
- The clothes Buckley was wearing when arrested were photographed and preserved as evidence.

Arresting Officer:	Approved By:
<i>Ben Krishnamurthy</i>	J. Rosier
Off. Benjamin Krishnamurthy	Chief Jadyn Rosier

Report Addendum: Witness Interviews**Recorded by Officer Benjamin Krishnamurthy**

Dakota Pope: 11:15pm, 05/19/17 interviewed at the crime scene Dakota Pope spoke with me at the scene of the crime. While Pope was visibly injured, Pope was not in critical condition. Pope seemed in shock at the time of the interview and continued to repeat the name "Carly," telling me we needed to "Get Carly out." Pope insisted that student Carly Walsh was still inside the burning building when Pope got out. Pope reported being in the dormitory building at the time it was set on fire. Pope stated that Spaller dorm was one of three dorms that housed female students and that Pope had been in the room assigned to Carly Walsh for a study session at the time the fire started. Pope recalled smelling gasoline and seeing a pool of liquid forming under the dorm room's door seconds before the fire started. Pope stated that Pope escaped the fire by jumping out the window, and that this jump was the source of Pope's injury. Pope described seeing someone rapidly flee the scene of the fire; that individual reportedly dropped a red gas canister. Pope noted that this suspect was wearing a yellow shirt and dark pants and compared their wardrobe to the work uniform of a student named Alex Buckley. Pope noted that Buckley had made threats towards Walsh in the past and insisted that I find and question Buckley.

Ana Gandhi and Don Zacek: 11:23pm, 05/19/17 interviewed at the crime scene Ana Gandhi, the Resident Assistant ("RA") for Carly's floor of Spaller Dorm, spoke with me at the scene of the crime. Gandhi reported attending a school dance and seeing the fire as she was walking home with her date, Don Zacek. She reported seeing smoke and flames coming from the dorm starting at 11:00pm and immediately called 911. Gandhi reported seeing a victim, later identified as Dakota Pope, exit from the third floor window. Gandhi and Zacek moved Pope away from the fire to the location where the EMTs found the three of them. Gandhi indicated that only students could enter dorms because an access card is required, though she admitted that someone had propped the door open for a short time that afternoon. Zacek corroborated her story in full.

Alex Buckley: 12:25am, 05/20/17 interviewed at the police station After being advised of Buckley's rights, Alex Buckley chose to speak with me about the fire. Buckley claimed Buckley worked at a convenience store about a mile from the Arcadia Forest campus, and that Buckley was working until 10:45pm on May 19. Buckley claimed that after work, Buckley walked to the school's student union, purchased food with cash at a vending machine, and then walked

toward Roberts dorm, where Buckley lived. Buckley denied being at or near the scene of the crime until 11:40 p.m., when the police found Buckley walking towards the dormitories and apprehended Buckley. At the time of the arrest and the interview, Buckley was wearing what Buckley identified as a convenience store uniform. The uniform included a yellow polo shirt with a small logo on the front and dark cargo style pants. Buckley was not wearing an arm brace at the time of arrest, although Buckley complained of pain in Buckley's right wrist and asked to retrieve a brace from Buckley's room prior to leaving the campus. This request was denied. When asked if Buckley's work required contact with red gas canisters, Buckley stated that the station had such canisters available to loan to customers in need. Buckley reported providing one to a customer, Todd Larkin, on the night of May 19. Buckley claimed that Larkin was a former boyfriend of the victim. Buckley voluntarily provided Buckley's cellular phone for examination. While the phone contained no text messages of material consequence, emails between Buckley and Lupe Rodriguez that discussed Carly Walsh were documented and preserved.

Misha Vadim: 10:04am, 05/20/17, interviewed at Gas n' Go

Misha Vadim reported being the regional manager and an owner of the establishment where Alex Buckley was employed. Vadim stated that Buckley was a model employee. Vadim recalled Buckley being present at the station on May 19, 2017 from 4:30 p.m. to about 10:40 p.m. When asked if the station carried red gas containers, Vadim stated that they did, and that one was unaccounted for. When asked about customers between 10 and 11pm on May 19, Vadim reported working in the store's office at that time and denied seeing or hearing any customers enter the station during that period. Vadim provided a receipt for a purchase of one gallon of gas in that time frame.

Lupe Rodriguez: 11:25am, 05/20/17, interviewed on the Arcadia Forest Preparatory campus

As someone with whom Buckley had discussed negative feelings about Carly Walsh, Lupe Rodriguez was interviewed about those communications with Buckley. Rodriguez, Buckley's academic advisor, explained that Buckley was in the running for a full college scholarship, and that Buckley saw Carly Walsh as Buckley's only competition. Rodriguez reported Buckley becoming enraged and aggressive about the prospect of not winning the scholarship, but stated that the only injury Buckley ever caused was to Buckley's own hand. Rodriguez also provided me with Buckley's full disciplinary history, which contained only one report.

Arresting Officer:	Approved By:
<i>Ben Krishnamurthy</i>	J. Rosier
Off. Benjamin Krishnamurthy	Chief Jady Rosier



Spaller Dorm, May 20, 2017



Spaller Dorm, photographed aerially, May 20, 2017



Key: **Medium blue circles:** full prints (20 points, 18 points) matching Alex Buckley
Light green circle: partial print (7 points) matching Alex Buckley
Orange circle: full print; no match found



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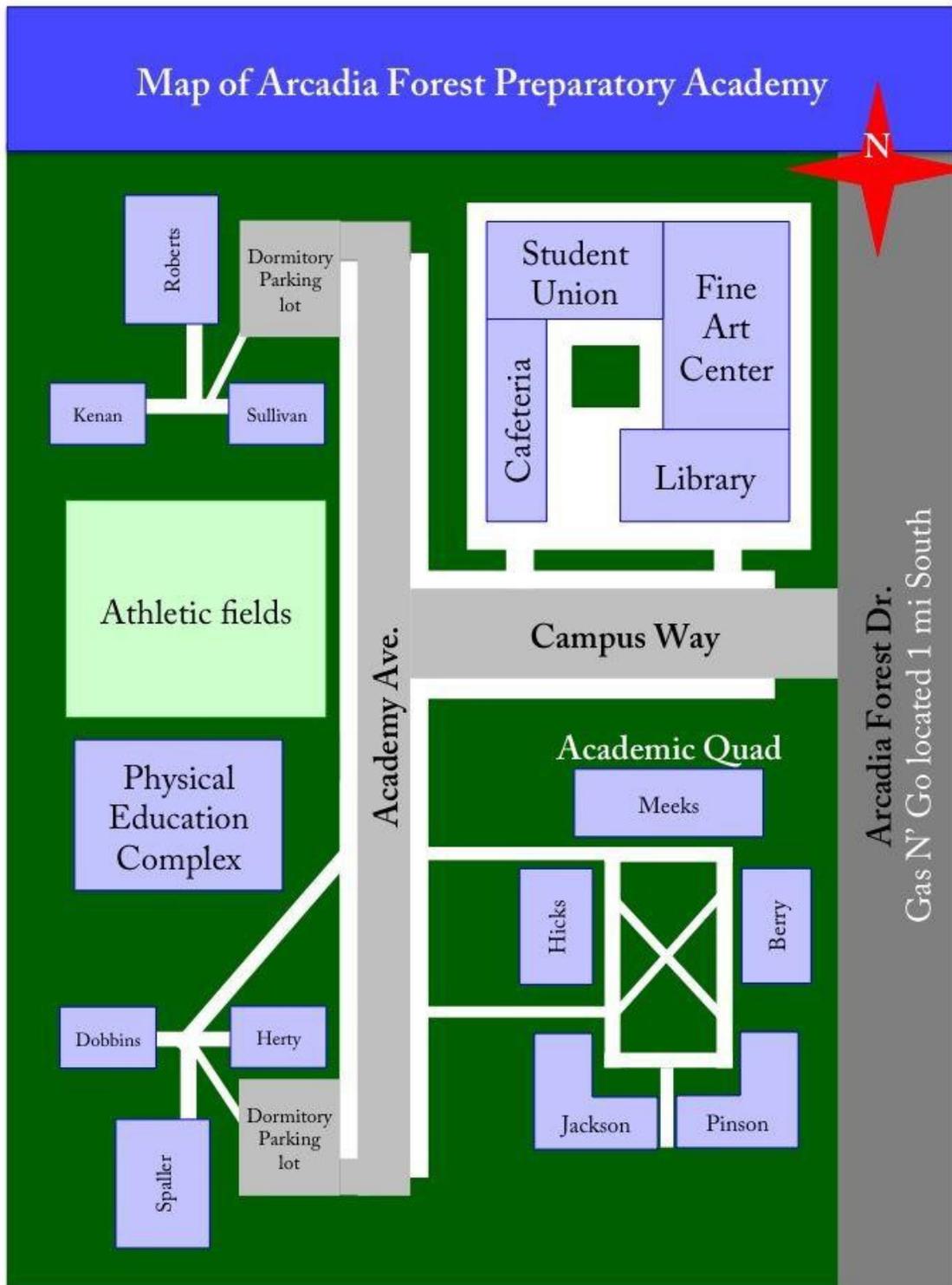
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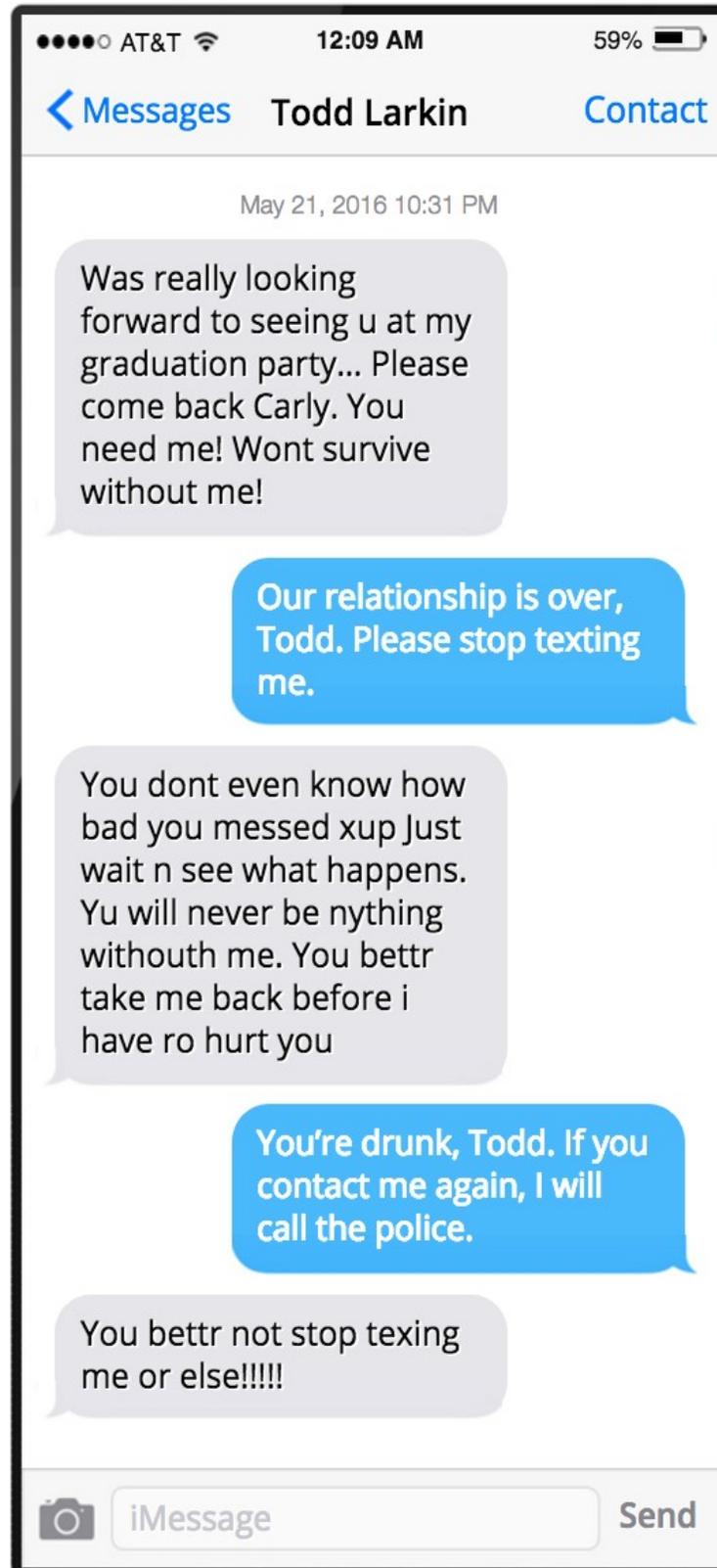
TOTAL: \$2.53

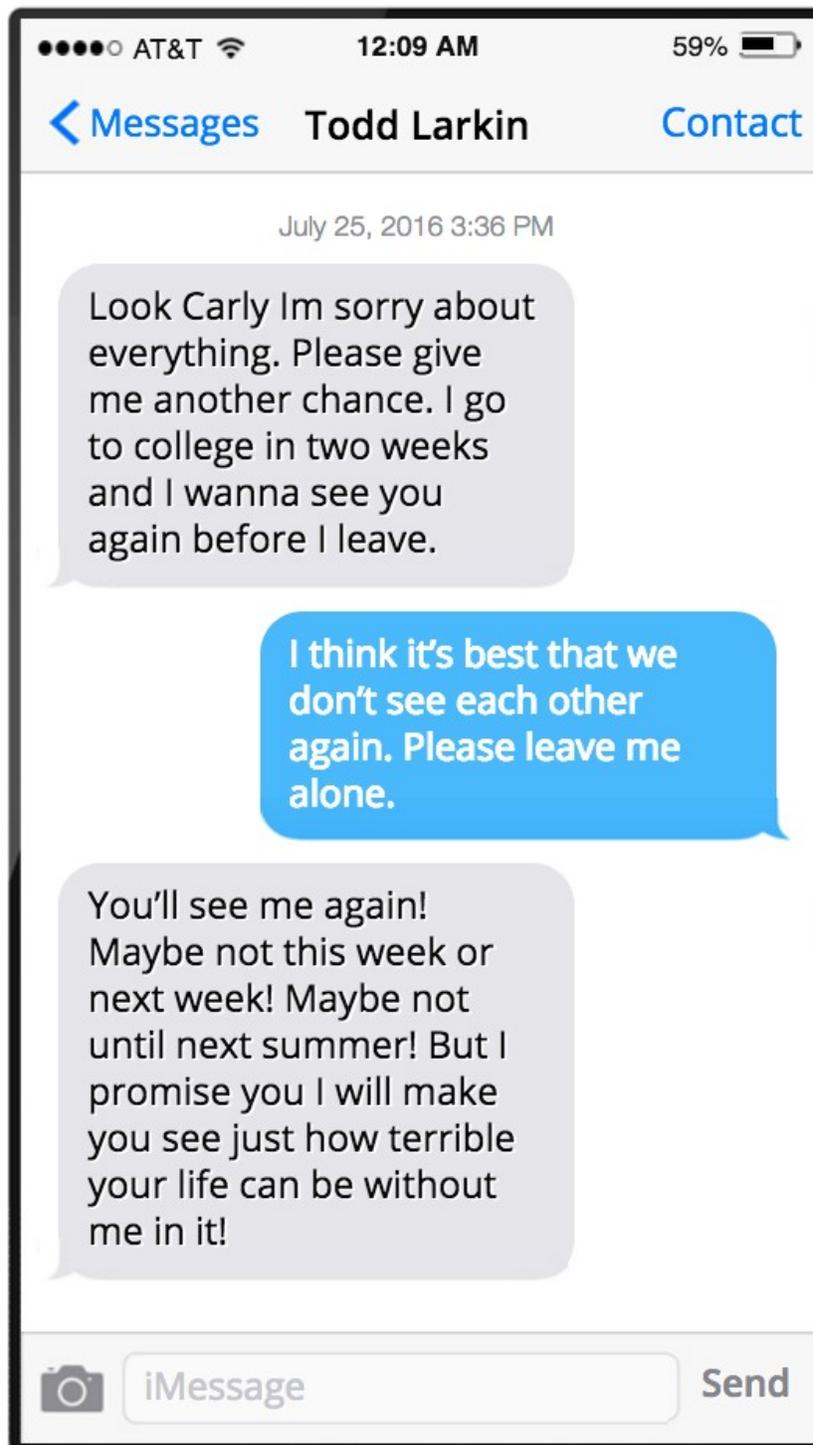
PAYMENT METHOD: CASH
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DATE:05/19/2017 10:34:46 PM

ALL SALES FINAL

THANK YOU







●●●●○ AT&T 12:09 AM 59%

< Messages Todd Larkin Contact

July 25, 2016 3:36 PM

Look Carly Im sorry about everything. Please give me another chance. I go to college in two weeks and I wanna see you again before I leave.

I think it's best that we don't see each other again. Please leave me alone.

You'll see me again! Maybe not this week or next week! Maybe not until next summer! But I promise you I will make you see just how terrible your life can be without me in it!

📷 iMessage Send

On 4/25/2017 at 10:35 AM, Alex Buckley <abuckley@afprep.org> wrote:

I can come by around 3:35. But unless you have a way to get Carly Walsh out of the picture, there isn't much to talk about.

- Alex

On 4/24/2017 3:10 PM, Lupe Rodriguez <lrodriguez@afprep.org> wrote:

I'd just like to chat. I know an injury can make this time of year difficult, especially when you are under stress.

Warmly,
Lupe Rodriguez

On 4/24/27 at 2:42 PM, Alex Buckley
<abuckley@afprep.org> wrote:

I can come in after class on Wednesday. But I am really fine. I just lost control for a bit.

- Alex

On 4/24/2017 9:35 AM, Lupe Rodriguez
<lrodriguez@afprep.org> wrote:

Alex,
I heard about your hand injury. I would love to make an appointment to discuss what happened and how to best move forward. If you are free anytime this week, please let me know.

Warmly,
Lupe Rodriguez

On 5/17/2017 at 8:57 PM, Alex Buckley <abuckley@afprep.org> wrote:

My scholarship is going to be fine. After this weekend, Carly Walsh won't matter to me at all. I spent too much time this year letting Carly get the best of me, when I really just needed to take matters into my own hands this whole time. No need to meet. I have work anyway.

- Alex

On 5/17/2017 4:13 PM, Lupe Rodriguez <lrodriguez@afprep.org> wrote:

Alex,

I noticed you missed our meeting today. Is everything going okay? How did the scholarships turn out? Do you have any time to meet this week? Maybe Friday during lunch or after school before the dance?

Warmly,

Lupe Rodriguez

*On 5/10/2017 9:14 AM, Lupe Rodriguez
<lrodriguez@afprep.org> wrote:*

Alex,

How are the scholarship applications going? Have you turned them in yet? If you need any help proofreading, my door is always open; if not, I will see you at 3:35 next Wednesday for our meeting.

Warmly,

Lupe Rodriguez

Student Incident Report

Arcadia Forest Preparatory Academy

Report date and time: March 10, 2014 3:45pm

Incident date and time: March 8, 2014 10:50am

Report filed by: Lupe Rodriguez

Student name: Alex Buckley

Date of birth: April 25, 1999 **Age:** 14 **Grade:** 9

Incident Location: Arcadia Forest physical education complex

Offense: Destruction of property

Parent notified: Yes **Police called?** No

Description of incident:

Alex competed in the Robotics event at the Science Olympiad Regional Competition hosted in the Arcadia Forest gymnasium. Alex was awarded fourth place. As the top three places were announced, Alex became resentful and angry. Alex punched at and then kicked the project built by the student who took second place. The project fell over, started to smoke, and eventually caught on fire. The fire alarm sounded and the building was evacuated. While Alex claims the incident was an accident and that Alex did not intend to harm the project, the teacher advisor for Science Olympiad, David Gray, disagreed. Mr. Gray called me during the alarm and said that Alex had intentionally harmed the project and ought to be suspended or punished.

Remediation/follow up recommended? Yes

Description of recommended remediation:

Alex should receive anger management counseling once per week for the remainder of the school year. Failure to complete the counseling sessions will result in Alex's expulsion. At the end of the school year, Alex should be re-evaluated and, pending advisor approval, be allowed to continue studying as a scholarship student at Arcadia Forest.

Signature of student: Alex Buckley Date: 3/10/14

Signature of counselor: Lupe Rodriguez Date: 3/10/14

Remediation completed? Yes

Date completed: May 15, 2014

Description of completed remediation:

Alex met with me each Thursday from March 13 – May 15, 2014. I worked with Alex on developing skills to handle stressful situations and deal with anger in a respectful manner. Alex had experienced some difficulty during the transition from a large public school to Arcadia Forest, and I have helped Alex learn to control the emotions resulting from this transition. Alex has made significant progress in the past two months, and based on that progress, I am fully comfortable signing off for Alex to continue studying at Arcadia Forest in our scholarship program.

Signature of counselor: Lupe Rodriguez Date: 5/15/14