1	COURT OF APPEALS
2	STATE OF NEW YORK
3	
4	MATTER OF GORMAN,
5	Appellant,
6	-against-
7	No. 190 RICE,
8	Respondent.
9	
10	20 Eagle Street Albany, New York 12207
11	October 16, 2014
12	Before:
13	CHIEF JUDGE JONATHAN LIPPMAN ASSOCIATE JUDGE VICTORIA A. GRAFFEO
14	ASSOCIATE JUDGE SUSAN PHILLIPS READ ASSOCIATE JUDGE ROBERT S. SMITH
15	ASSOCIATE JUDGE EUGENE F. PIGOTT, JR. ASSOCIATE JUDGE JENNY RIVERA
16	ASSOCIATE JUDGE ABDUS-SALAAM
17	Appearances:
18	HARRY H. KUTNER, JR., ESQ. LAW OFFICE OF HARRY H. KUTNER, JR.
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20	Mineola, NY 11501
21	BARBARA KORNBLAU, ADA NASSAU COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
22	Attorneys for Respondent 262 Old Country Road
23	Mineola, NY 11501
24	Sara Winkeljohn
25	Official Court Transcriber

1 CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: We're going to start with one - - - 190, Matter of Gorman v. Rice. 2 3 Counselor, you want any rebuttal time? MR. KUTNER: I don't think it'd be 4 5 necessary, Judge, but if I could, I could reserve 6 just two minutes. 7 CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Two minutes, you have 8 it. Go ahead. 9 MR. KUTNER: Before I comm - - - I 10 commence, may it please the court and members of the 11 court, I'd like to apologize for a typographical 12 error I just detected in the appellate field, the 13 lore of unending typographical errors, as I've been 14 told over the years. On page 14 of the reply, point 15 3, it was sen - - - it's - - - it used the double 16 negative and - - - but in the context, I'm sure the 17 court picked it up that it wasn't meant that way. 18 But it says, "The Appellate Division's finding was 19 not unsupported by the record." It was obviously our 20 position - - -21 CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Counsel, it's happened before. Not to worry. 22 23 MR. KUTNER: Well, it leads into my first 2.4 point - - -

CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Go - - -

1	MR. KUTNER: the jurisdiction of this
2	court to hear the issue. The Appellate Division
3	_
4	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Let let me ask
5	you a question, first
6	MR. KUTNER: Yes, Your Honor.
7	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: counsel. Is
8	the issue here of whether or not there is the
9	issue whether or not there was consent? Or is it
10	that whether consent was given?
11	MR. KUTNER: In a way, that's the flip side
12	of the coin. Is the issue is whether or not
13	the mistrial ruling was actually rescinded because
14	the issue of consent
15	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: That's the
16	MR. KUTNER: wouldn't even
17	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: That's the question
18	I'm asking you.
19	MR. KUTNER: Yeah, the the issue of
20	consent doesn't even come into play until you dec
21	- you know, there was a decision whether to rescind
22	it.
23	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Well, what about when
24	the judge asked the attorney should he go forward?
25	Was that not a re a a asking him

	for consent?
2	MR. KUTNER: He twice posed the question,
3	but, no, he gave him the option of abandoning or
4	surrendering what he had, meaning the the
5	double jeopardy bar by the unrequested unre
6	unnecessary mistrial, giving that up, and then going
7	forward with the trial and the
8	JUDGE SMITH: Well, but he but the
9	judge
10	MR. KUTNER: at at his client's
11	option.
12	JUDGE SMITH: The judge said he would
13	reconsider his ruling if you wanted him to.
14	MR. KUTNER: I might recon yeah, I'll
15	reconsider.
16	JUDGE SMITH: Yeah, but was was he -
17	was he
18	MR. KUTNER: Or I I might reconsider.
19	JUDGE SMITH: allowed to say that? I
20	mean did he did he still have the power to
21	reconsider his ruling
22	MR. KUTNER: Yes.
23	JUDGE SMITH: at that point?
24	MR. KUTNER: Yes, and so
25	JUDGE SMITH: So why why wasn't it

then - - - and you - - - and I gather it was you, right?

MR. KUTNER: Yes.

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JUDGE SMITH: Yeah, you - - - you consulted with your client and you came back and said reluctantly we'll take the mistrial. Why - - - yeah, you - - - you had the option of going ahead. Why - - - why - - - why wasn't - - - oh, yeah, how can you claim double jeopardy after you did that?

MR. KUTNER: Because in 1974, one of my first trials in - - in district court in Nassau County, I was told a valu - - taught a valuable lesson by the trial judge, where there was an issue of outrageous remark made by the prosecutor and there - - some of the co-counsel, the four attorneys, two made motions for mistrial and another one and I reserved. The other - - the fourth attorney was a very experienced attorney.

And I reserved because he did and then I found out that he said I'm not going to - - - I'm not going to ask until I see which way the trial court's leaning and then - - because you can always try to get double jeopardy. It's one of the avenues that you could pursue later on in case the court is going to grant and it's found not to be manifestly

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          necessary. So at the time the - - - the mistrial was
 2
          granted I knew that there was a double jeopardy bar.
 3
          That it was not manifestly necessary to grant it
 4
          based upon the colloquy that occurred.
 5
                    JUDGE SMITH: And yet - - - and you didn't
 6
          --- you didn't --- and you didn't ---
 7
                    MR. KUTNER: But I - - - and I didn't want
8
          to give it up.
9
                    JUDGE SMITH: And you didn't want a - - -
10
          you - - - you - - - you - - - you basically - - - you
11
          said you wanted the mistrial because you wanted to
12
          keep the benefit of the double jeopardy bar. Is that
13
          what you're saying?
                    MR. KUTNER: No, I didn't say I wanted a
14
15
          mistrial. I - - - I said regrettably we're going to
          go with the mistrial, meaning I'm not going to just
16
17
          give up and ask the court to rescind it - - -
                    JUDGE SMITH: Counsel, but what - - -
18
19
                    MR. KUTNER: Because I already have it - -
20
          - I already have it.
21
                    JUDGE READ: Did the court have to - - -
22
                    CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: What - - - what is
23
          that your acquiescence to go forward - - - your
2.4
          acquiescence to end the - - - the - - - the trial.
25
          What - - - what - - - what - - - what does that mean?
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1	MR. KUTNER: What? I'm sorry, Judge, I'm
2	not under
3	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: What you did
4	what when you when you spoke to the judge
5	and the judge asked you a question
6	MR. KUTNER: Yeah.
7	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: what did your
8	answer mean?
9	MR. KUTNER: The regrettably comment? That
10	I regret because of the the four days lost and
11	all of the time and expense. But and I regret
12	because we had just had a conversation with my
13	client's family outside about the expense of of
14	the judge's ruling. If it if it was going to
15	stick, end in mistrial. That's why we didn't
16	we didn't want to give up what we had. We wanted
17	this trial
18	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: But you didn't want
19	to go forward in front of this judge?
20	MR. KUTNER: No, I I I would
21	have, and it was very simple to correct that. All he
22	had to do was if he just had signed the
23	subpoena for that critically exculpatory information.
24	Here we had the troopers arresting someone, claiming

she was falling down dead drunk, couldn't even walk.

And yet a Nassau County Police Officer, when she was lodged there for detention overnight, checked off on the suicide screening, "No sign of intoxication or drug abuse."

JUDGE PIGOTT: You make it sound, though, like you and the judge are - - are doing a little bit of a dance to see who can - - who can one-up the other. Because he - - he was concerned - - - I mean this is your second trial. And all of a sudden, you know, a subpoena pops up that, if you read - - - if you read the record, you - - that - - - that subpoena should have been issued six months before.

And so he - - - he says, you know, I'm going to grant a mistrial. And what you're now saying is I had him, and I wasn't going to give that up. I had him because if - - - if I consented to it, then I'm going to lose my double jeopardy. But I had him, so I wasn't, you know - - - so I wasn't going to, you know, do anything to let - - - allow him to reconsider his decision, when, in fact, he has the right to reconsider his decision.

MR. KUTNER: Absolutely, he does, but he didn't do it.

JUDGE READ: Well, couldn't he have said -

MR. KUTNER: And that - - - and what Judge 1 2 - - - I'm sorry. 3 JUDGE READ: - - - does he - - - does he 4 have to say I rescind my order declaring a mistrial? 5 MR. KUTNER: No. No, ma'am. All the judge 6 would have to do is say that, you know, my - - - the 7 mistrial has been vacated, say something indicating 8 that he was going to do it. He never said that. 9 JUDGE ABDUS-SALAAM: Well if he - - -10 MR. KUTNER: He said I might reconsider if 11 you - - -12 CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: You're saying he can 13 but he didn't? 14 MR. KUTNER: Exactly. 15 JUDGE ABDUS-SALAAM: Well, counsel, what -16 - - what was the point of giving you and your client 17 the option of considering whether to go forward or 18 not with this particular judge if he wasn't 19 rescinding? 20 MR. KUTNER: He - - - I - - - if I made the 21 application - - - I think what you're asking is if I 22 made the application to rescind the mistrial ruling 23 and he considered it and - - - and grant it - - -2.4 then he was going to decide whether to grant it or

not. I - - - I don't know.

1	JUDGE ABDUS-SALAAM: No, what I was asking
2	is
3	MR. KUTNER: I'm sorry.
4	JUDGE ABDUS-SALAAM: the judge
5	himself decided that maybe he realized what you
6	realized, that if he declared this mistrial without
7	your consent that you have a doub a double
8	jeopardy issue. So the judge realizing that says,
9	well, you know, I'll reconsider. Do you want to go
10	forward with me or or not and gives you and
11	your client an opportunity to discuss it. So what
12	was the point of that if he wasn't reconsidering?
13	MR. KUTNER: Because he still he
14	didn't say I will res resume the trial if you
15	and your client want to. He said I'll consider it.
16	He still didn't indicate which way he was going.
17	JUDGE SMITH: In your your in -
18	
19	MR. KUTNER: He left the bench there times
20	and was getting
21	JUDGE SMITH: In your position, I mean,
22	you're you're
23	MR. KUTNER: I'm sorry?
24	JUDGE SMITH: You're stating you're
25	saying you're saying clearly and candidly

Τ	I think you're consistent but it's it's
2	you're taking a essentially, a formalistic
3	position, aren't you, that you're saying you -
4	you don't dispute that he could have said I
5	hereby rescind my my order granting a mistrial
6	and if you wish to make a motion for a mistrial I
7	will grant that motion. If he'd said that you and
8	you'd made the motion, we wouldn't be here, right?
9	MR. KUTNER: Yes, sir.
10	JUDGE SMITH: And you say that what
11	happened here is not yeah, it may look like
12	that but it's not because he never said I rescind my
13	motion and you never said I move for a mistrial.
14	MR. KUTNER: No, and I think the the
15	respondent's position proves that out because they
16	are trying to rely heavily on implied consent and
17	- and
18	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Yeah, but but
19	didn't he restore
20	MR. KUTNER: And there was no need if there
21	was a it was an expressed decision.
22	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Counselor?
23	MR. KUTNER: Yes, Judge?
24	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Didn't he restore to
25	you the choice as to whether to complete the trial?

1	MR. KUTNER: No. No, Your Honor.
2	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: He didn't restore?
3	MR. KUTNER: No, I
4	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: He didn't give you a
5	choice
6	MR. KUTNER: I think
7	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: that you made
8	and and then the argument comes in that you
9	consented to the trial termination and to a retrial -
10	
11	MR. KUTNER: No, Your Honor, the plain
12	-
13	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: based on the
14	fact that he gave you the choice. Why why
15	isn't from a common-sense perspective, what
16	else does it mean, what transpired between the
17	MR. KUTNER: The plain
18	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: two of you?
19	MR. KUTNER: The plain import of the
20	language is that he'll give he'll consider the
21	option. Well, first he gave us the option of
22	deciding whether to go forward or to
23	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Right.
24	MR. KUTNER: keep the mistrial.
25	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: So what does that

1	mean?
2	MR. KUTNER: But he doesn't say that if you
3	want to go forward, I'm going to he isn't
4	he doesn't indicate he's going to rescind. He
5	doesn't say I'm rescinding the mistrial and if you -
6	
7	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Isn't he
8	MR. KUTNER: As he
9	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: But wasn't he, for
10	all practical purposes, putting this in your lap?
11	MR. KUTNER: No, Your Honor. He's still
12	keeping it still keeping the card, basically,
13	up his sleeve of making the ultimate decision
14	himself. It's it's quite similar to
15	JUDGE PIGOTT: That's the so you say
16	so you say you
17	MR. KUTNER: Catten-Murphy and to
18	-
19	JUDGE PIGOTT: You say he's keeping it up
20	his sleeve. I mean that that's that's
21	the way this whole thing seem I mean the two of
22	you were were it was entertaining.
23	MR. KUTNER: Judge, I didn't want it to be.
24	JUDGE PIGOTT: But didn't he as
25	as my notes say, he he says he's going to give

1	you five minutes to discuss with Gorman what you want
2	to do. "If you and your client want me to preside
3	over this trial, then I'll reconsider it." And then
4	when he returned you said, "Judge, after consulting
5	Mrs. Gorman and her husband, Jim, and the family and
6	weighing all the options, regrettably, we're going to
7	go with a mistrial." So didn't you ask for it?
8	MR. KUTNER: No, no, sir. I don't I
9	don't
10	JUDGE GRAFFEO: I I've been
11	MR. KUTNER: I submit that wasn't
12	requesting a mistrial.
13	JUDGE GRAFFEO: I've been listening to all
14	this, but I'm trying to figure out
15	MR. KUTNER: Yes, Judge.
16	JUDGE GRAFFEO: what the rule is that
17	you want us to adopt. It sounds like you want us to
18	say that a judge has to affirmatively state on the
19	record that he or she is rescinding
20	MR. KUTNER: It that's what Catten-
21	Murphy
22	JUDGE GRAFFEO: Is it okay.
23	MR. KUTNER: and Dawkins and all of
24	the the precedent says. In each case, the
25	_

1	JUDGE GRAFFEO: You have you have to
2	use that that term?
3	MR. KUTNER: No, the the judge can
4	just say a mistrial is is withdrawn. We're
5	going to continue the trial. Or don't even say
6	withdrawn, don't say rescinded. Just say you know
7	what, we're going to continue the trial. He never
8	said that. He never said you know what, you can ask
9	and if I'm going to rescind my ruling and we're
LO	going to continue. If you want to make the motion,
L1	will consider that again. That status had
L2	JUDGE SMITH: So your your so
L3	your
L4	MR. KUTNER: never changed, Judge.
L5	JUDGE SMITH: Your point is, that although
L6	he said if you and your client decide you want me to
L7	preside over this trial than I'll reconsider it, but
L8	he didn't you tell you how he was going to come out -
L9	
20	MR. KUTNER: Exactly.
21	JUDGE SMITH: when he reconsidered
22	it?
23	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Okay, counsel.
24	MR. KUTNER: Never stated.
25	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Let's hear from your

1 adversary and then you'll have your rebuttal. 2 MR. KUTNER: Thank you. 3 MS. KORNBLAU: Thank you. Good afternoon, Barbara Kornblau for the respondent. 4 5 CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Counselor, what do you think transpired between the judge and - - - and 6 7 defense counsel? MS. KORNBLAU: Well, I think that - - -8 9 that counsel saw that the case was not going in his 10 favor, not the way he wanted to. He felt that the 11 judge may have been biased in - - - in favor of the 12 People, and that he chose to take his chance in front 13 of another jury at another time. CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: You think he - - -14 15 MS. KORNBLAU: And I - - -16 CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: - - - he - - - he 17 agreed to a retrial? 18 MS. KORNBLAU: I absolutely do. You know, 19 I also want to address the point regarding the word 2.0 "rescission" or what a judge has to do to actually 21 rescind his - - - his declaration of a mistrial in 22 order so that defendant can then consent. And the 23 bottom line is the judge did not have to say 2.4 anything. The judge did not have to rescind

anything. A mistrial declaration does not end the

1	trial. And until that trial ends, the judge
2	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: What ends the trial?
3	MS. KORNBLAU: The discharge of the jury.
4	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: So until the jury is
5	discharged, judge can do anything in one direction or
6	another?
7	MS. KORNBLAU: That is correct. And
8	and and so can counsel. If it was counsel's
9	motion for a mistrial, he could withdraw that prior
10	to the time that the jury is discharged. I'd like -
11	
12	JUDGE SMITH: Well, he the this
13	you're not saying that this that his
14	- that the judge's original ruling was made on
15	counsel's motion, or are you?
16	MS. KORNBLAU: No, I am not.
17	JUDGE SMITH: And and, in fact, if
18	the judge's original ruling if nothing else had
19	happened and he'd simply gone ahead and discharged
20	the jury, there's no doubt he would have triggered
21	double jeopardy, is there?
22	MS. KORNBLAU: That's correct. That's
23	correct unless there was implied consent, and I would
24	like to direct this court's attention to a case that
25	this court decided back in

1	JUDGE SMITH: Does
2	MS. KORNBLAU: 2011.
3	JUDGE SMITH: Does does consent
4	I mean you you as I understand it, Mr.
5	Kutner's trying to draw a distinction between consent
6	and actually seeking a mistrial. You think that's a
7	false distinction?
8	MS. KORNBLAU: I think that they both have
9	the same consequence and that is that double jeopardy
LO	does not bar a retrial where the defendant
L1	JUDGE SMITH: Or if if the judge
L2	- if the judge says because as it happened
L3	here, because he lost patience, perhaps
L4	understandably, and he says really without a
L5	good reason he says this is it. It's a mistrial,
L6	forget about it. The jury's going home. And the
L7	lawyer sits there completely silent, doesn't say a
L8	word, even though he could have protested, does that
L9	would that trigger double jeopardy?
20	MS. KORNBLAU: No, it wouldn't. And I'd
21	like to direct this court's
22	JUDGE SMITH: Why why isn't that ther
23	
24	MS. KORNBLAU: attention to Marte v.
25	v. Berkman, which is a case that was decided by

this court back in 2011. I apologize; unfortunately, it was inadvertently left out of my brief, although it was in my brief to the Appellate Division. that case, the judge declared a mistrial. There was -- - the jury sent in a note that they were at an The trial judge declared a mistrial, and impasse. during the discussions before they brought the jury back in the judge said, you know, does anybody want to be heard on this? Defense counsel did not respond. The judge then called in the jury and took what was a partial verdict at the time. After taking the partial verdict, the judge said does anybody wish to be heard? Counsel did not respond. And the judge then discharged the jury.

Double jeopardy was - - - was held not to bar a retrial on the remaining counts in that indictment. So that case is very clear that the consent can be through silence, if - - - if a defendant has a sufficient opportunity to object.

CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Once they're - - once they're given the choice, double jeopardy doesn't apply?

MS. KORNBLAU: Once they're given the choice and the opportunity to respond.

CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Right, once it's put

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1 back in your lap - - -2 MS. KORNBLAU: That's correct. 3 CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: - - - no double 4 jeopardy? 5 MS. KORNBLAU: That is the law. That is 6 correct. 7 CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Okay, what else, 8 counsel, anything? 9 MS. KORNBLAU: Unless the court has any 10 other questions? 11 CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Okay, thanks, 12 counsel. 13 MS. KORNBLAU: Thank you. CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Counselor, rebuttal? 14 15 MR. KUTNER: Yes, the irony here - - - it -- - the court's familiar with the record. Twice I 16 17 did seek mistrials for things that a - - - I thought 18 would poison a jury permanently against my client: 19 once in jury selection when a clearly challenge-for-20 cause juror was apparent - - - trying to be 21 rehabilitated in order to force me to take one for -22 - - as a perempt; and later, in a case involving all 23 Irish people and drinking, the district attorney made 2.4 an anti-Irish slur in cross-examining someone, said 25 you - - - you said your family doesn't drink and your

name - - - maiden name's McBride? And I let it sit overnight and then made the application. And again, twice those applications, based upon something in the record, were denied. JUDGE SMITH: Well, the judge - - - the judge thought you were trying to bait him into a mistrial. MR. KUTNER: And, you know, Judge, it

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started out that way at the first instance because the prior, quotes, "trial" was not a trial. During jury selection in that case, before a different judge, two members of the venire - - - of - - - seated in the box began to talk about all these people who get to this point of trial are guilty.

I've been in AA, they - - - they're all guilty.

They've done it. And as far as I'm concerned, you can't stop it. The court officer didn't stop them from talking. It was while I was in the back with the district attorney speaking to the judge. And it was later reported and the judge just disbanded the venire.

CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Counsel - -
MR. KUTNER: So there was no real prior
trial.

CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Counsel?

1	MR. KUTNER: Yes.
2	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: After this exchange -
3	
4	MR. KUTNER: Yes, Your Honor.
5	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: what did you
6	say to yourself as to what had just happened?
7	MR. KUTNER: I first of all, I felt
8	awful that that I my remark to Judge
9	Spergel should have been couched a little different.
LO	I was trying to impress on him his single course of
L1	conduct as you read the record, as the court
L2	did, you find a a bias. At at a later
L3	trial I had him before him, you know, he wore a
L4	he wears a shield on his robe, a detective shield.
L5	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: But what what
L6	was going through your mind
L7	MR. KUTNER: As far as what?
L8	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: right after
L9	that happened as to what now happens with this case?
20	What were you thinking to yourself based on this
21	exchange?
22	MR. KUTNER: You mean what the court was
23	going to do?
24	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: What no, once -
)	

2	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: once once
3	you had your exchange, once the court did whatever it
4	did, what did you think had happened in terms of how
5	it impacted on
6	MR. KUTNER: I had to re I did the
7	research that night or the next morning very early.
8	And at that point to decide or to find out if I
9	was correct that double jeopardy did apply, I then
10	made a motion
11	JUDGE SMITH: The the the short
12	answer's you thought you'd won the case?
13	MR. KUTNER: I thought I had a bar to a
14	further prosecution, yes. And and then her
15	- her mon Ms. Gorman's money wouldn't have been
16	wasted for the first part of the of the case.
17	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Okay, thanks. Thank
18	you both.
19	MR. KUTNER: Thank you.
20	JUDGE ABDUS-SALAAM: Thank you.
21	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Appreciate it.
22	(Court is adjourned)
23	
24	

MR. KUTNER: Sorry.

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CERTIFICATION

I, Sara Winkeljohn, certify that the foregoing transcript of proceedings in the Court of Appeals of Matter of Gorman v. Rice, No. 190 was prepared using the required transcription equipment and is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Considerich and

Signature: _____

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