1	COURT OF APPEALS	
2	STATE OF NEW YORK	
3		
4	PEOPLE,	
5	Respondent,	
6	-against-	No. 166
7	DANIEL A. LUDWIG,	No. 166 (Papers sealed)
8	Appellant.	
9		
LO	PEOPLE,	
L1	Respondent,	
L2	-against-	No. 167
L3	WILLIAM CULLEN,	(Papers sealed)
L4	Appellant.	
L5		
L6		20 Eagle Street Albany, New York 12207
L7		September 17, 2014
L8		
L9	Before: CHIEF JUDGE JONATHAN	TITPPMAN
20	ASSOCIATE JUDGE VICTORIA ASSOCIATE JUDGE SUSAN PH	A. GRAFFEO
21	ASSOCIATE JUDGE ROBERT ASSOCIATE JUDGE EUGENE F.	S. SMITH
22	ASSOCIATE JUDGE JENNY ASSOCIATE JUDGE SHEILA A	Z RIVERA
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Official Court Transcriber

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 $\label{eq:chief_def} \text{CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN:} \quad \text{People v. Ludwig and}$ People v. Cullen.

Counselor, would you like rebuttal time?

MR. SHIFFRIN: Please, Your Honor. Two
minutes, please.

CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Two minutes, go ahead. You're on.

MR. SHIFFRIN: May it please the court,
Brian Shiffrin on behalf of Daniel Ludwig. The
admission over objection of hearsay testimony from
the complainant's mother and brother of the
complainant's detailed allegations of sex crimes
committed by Mr. Ludwig and of the complainant's
statements to them that these allegations are true
and "I'm not kidding", impermissibly and
prejudicially bolstered the complainant's
credibility.

For more than a hundred years this court has held that it's impermissible to introduce hearsay prior consistent statements which bolster a complainant's credibility and the - - -

JUDGE SMITH: But couldn't the same objection have been made to the victim's testimony to the same conversation?

MR. SHIFFRIN: The victim's testimony was -- - was qualitatively different, Your Honor. victim's testimony at appendix pages 115 and 116 is I - - - - - - - - her testimony was I sort of told my brother what happened and then I told my mother what happened. No - - - no details, and she didn't say, as - - - as they - - - they repeated, either the details of - - - that - - - of the sex act or that "I said to them it's true, it's true, it's true". That's the mother's testimony over a victim. JUDGE SMITH: Well, it's obv - - - I - - -

I can see why you're more - - - why - - - why you feel you were hurt more by the brother's and the mother's testimony than by the child's, the - - - the girl's. But didn't you open the door? I mean, we - - - or can - - - can you be charged with having opened the door by not objecting the first time?

MR. SHIFFRIN: Re - - respectfully, Your Honor, this is similar to in People v. Rosario, which - - - in which this court reversed for pri - - - for the admission of prior consistent statement. In footnote 3 the court pointed out there was not an objection to the note coming in, but there's - - - but it was prejudicially reversible error to allow the testimony of the person - - - the cousin, I

believe, who had the conversation.

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So the fact that - - - that - - - that
without objection the testimony came in, I answered
the - - - answered the question how - - - how this
all started in terms of investigation. So none of
that's needed anymore, but none of those details come
in. It should be pointed out that - - - that - - and this is critical, because this testimony comes in
for the - - - the testimony from the mother and
brother had to be coming in for the truth. We know
that for three separate reasons. One, there was no
limiting instruction with respect to the mother's
testimony that the girl told her in detail the sex
act, and she repeatedly said it was true. There was
no - - -

JUDGE GRAFFEO: Would that have made a difference here? Would that have cleansed the - - -

MR. SHIFFRIN: Well, actually, that's leading to my secondary reasons.

JUDGE GRAFFEO: - - - testimony?

MR. SHIFFRIN: The - - - the - - - the testimony, which is the instruction with regard to the brother, was only with respect to the smell, isn't for the truth, that no instruction with respect to the brother as to the - - - as to the sex act or

1	the "I'm not kidding". But on on in
2	respect to your question, Your Honor, the no,
3	it would not have made a difference but for two
4	for a few separate reasons. The for instance,
5	first of all, this is the type of test
6	testimony which should never come in, the detail
7	- detailed allegations, even when there's a proper -
8	
9	JUDGE GRAFFEO: Well, I think that was
10	going to be my next question. Is there anything
11	these two witnesses could have said, or you feel
12	their testimony, in total, was an error?
13	MR. SHIFFRIN: They had no was
14	they had no nonhear hearsay information.
15	They there there was
16	JUDGE READ: So they couldn't say
17	they couldn't say any
18	JUDGE GRAFFEO: There's there's
19	nothing they can say that is that explains the
20	timing of the complaint by the child or the
21	circumstances of when the investigation started?
22	MR. SHIFFRIN: A a a few things
23	with respect to that. First of all, the the
24	timing of the complaint already came out through the
25	complainant's un unobjected-to testimony. They

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had nothing to add to that. Neither of them
 2
          testified that they - - - they contacted the police.
 3
          Indeed, the mother said she didn't contact the
 4
          police. The brother never testify - - - was never
 5
          asked of that. The - - -
 6
                    JUDGE SMITH: And are you - - - are - - -
 7
          are you saying that the - - - well, first of all,
 8
          you're not saying there's nothing they could say.
 9
          You - - - you're say - - - it was okay for them to
10
          testify to the statement about the smell?
11
                    MR. SHIFFRIN: Yes, and - - - and - - - and
12
          that's the - - -
13
                    JUDGE SMITH: You didn't object to that?
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                    MR. SHIFFRIN: That's correct.
15
                    JUDGE SMITH: But - - - but - - - but - - -
16
          but you're also saying that as to the - - - as to the
17
          statement, the answer to the question, how do you
18
          know, the - - - the answer to that, you're saying,
19
          had no possible purpose except it's true?
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                    MR. SHIFFRIN: It had no possible purpose,
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          and there was no limiting instruction with either - -
22
          - with - - - with respect to having no or - - -
                    JUDGE SMITH: Well, if there - - - if
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          there'd been a limiting instruction, I'm confused - -
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MR. SHIFFRIN: I - - -1 JUDGE SMITH: - - - to what you - - - what 2 3 do think they should do? MR. SHIFFRIN: I don't think it should come 4 5 in, because the - - - the - - - how - - - how do you know and - - - and the details, which don't come in 6 with prompt complaint exception, don't come in with 7 8 the recent fabrication exception, you can't over - -9 - you can't disregard that, first of all. It's when 10 a type - - - type of testimony - - -JUDGE SMITH: Okay, I'm - - - I'm trying to 11 12 ask what I think is a softball question. Am I right 13 in thinking that there's no possible purpose except 14 the - - - except the truth of the matter stated for 15 putting in those statements? 16 MR. SHIFFRIN: Yes - - - yes, Your Honor. 17 The - - - the testimony that "it's true, it's true, 18 it's true", cannot be considered for anything other 19 than truth, even if there had been a limiting 20 instruction. That's - - - that's the essence of our 21 point. The testimony that "I'm not kidding" can only 22 come in for that purpose, and no other purpose was 23 asserted.

Over the course of litigation, in the

different stages of appeal, four separate theories

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were - - - were - - - had been put forth by the

People. First, at trial they argued it was relevant

for the witnesses' state of mind. The witnesses'

state - - - witnesses' state of mind, the brother's

state of mind, is simply irrelevant. We - - - we -
- the - - - it was not put in issue here. And if the

witness - - - if - - - if the recipient of

prejudicial hearsay, state of mind always can - -
can come in, there's no rule - - - there's no rule on

these prior consistent statements. We just

overturned the rule.

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Same on appeal, the Appellate Division affirmed on a different theory which is to show how the investigation began, which, again, was not asserted at the trial court, wasn't a holding of the trial court in - - - for - - - putting aside

LaFontaine and Concepcion, the jury was never instructed this comes in for how the investigation began. There - - - there - - - and there's no testimony about any police officers getting involved. It just nev - - nev - - never happened here.

The - - - on appeal they had two more rationales. They argue as to refute recent fabrication claims. Again, never rose to the trial level, never reached by the trial level. But even if

it had been, the motive to fabricate, first of all, preexisted, the - - - that - - - that statement, number one. Number two, with - - - with recent fabrication re - - refutation, you can't get into details of the allegations, which came in here. And number three, there was no limiting instruction to the jury about that. That - - - that has to fall.

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And the final theory that they urge now is to complete the narrative. The narrative of this claim occurred fourteen months prior to - - - to - - to the statement. This - - - this is not completion of the narrative. This was repetition of the narrative. The - - - this was not interwoven in - - into the crime itself.

TUDGE SMITH: Is it - - is it possible that your - - that your client gets an advantage from the way it came - - came in? That is, having the somewhat less powerful statement of the child of what - - as to what she said, which came in without objection. You like that because it fixes the time, and you make the argument, ah, that's just the time she wanted to spend the vacation with her brother. Then the more compelling testimony you object to.

Could you be accused of trying to - - - to cherrypick the testimony?

1 MR. SHIFFRIN: Respectfully no, Your Honor, 2 because it's not - - - it's not that I'm trying to 3 keep out - - - under no circumstances, even if the 4 complainant had not testified, can the - - - can the 5 details of what she said come - - - come in. That's - - - the - - - none of the exceptions this court has 6 7 ever - - - has ever - - - has ever held exist with 8 respect to prior consistent statement testimony - - -9 JUDGE SMITH: Well, what about, you know -10 11 MR. SHIFFRIN: - - - and the details come 12 in. 13 JUDGE SMITH: - - - how - - - why - - - why was what little she - - - I - - - I agree with you 14 15 that she didn't say much. But why was what little 16 she did say - - - she says I told my dad. Or I'm 17 sorry, I told my mom about what - - - about what 18 happened with my dad. Or I told my brother about what happened with my dad. Why isn't that just as 19 20 objectionable in principle as the stuff you're 21 complaining about now? MR. SHIFFRIN: It - - - it - - - well, my 22 23 own answer is it could have objected to, but it's not 2.4 as - - - your question is as objectionable? What - -

- what happened in - - -

1 JUDGE SMITH: I - - - oh, I don't mean it's 2 prejudicial. But it's - - - it's - - - but it's 3 objectionable on exactly the same ground? 4 MR. SHIFFRIN: In - - - in part on the same 5 grounds. It's objectionable be - - - because it's 6 prior consistent statement. But - - - but without 7 revealing the details and without saying over and 8 over again that "it's true, it's true, it's true", 9 "I'm not kidding". The - - - the impact is - - - is 10 far - - - is far less. The - - - in - - -11 JUDGE SMITH: Well, I guess what I'm saying 12 is is it okay for you to let in the low-impact stuff 13 because you like the timing, and it helps you, and 14 then when it becomes high-impact you can say I 15 object? 16 MR. SHIFFRIN: But it's - - - it's not a 17 question of - - - of - - - of letting in. The - - -18 the - - -19 JUDGE PIGOTT: Well, can't your answer to 20 that be yes? 21 MR. SHIFFRIN: The answer's - - is yes, 22 Your Honor. The - - - thank you, Your Honor. The -23 - - the - - - because the - - - the prejudice is - -2.4 - is so great and - - - and there's no - - - there's 25 the - - - whether or not the testimony of the

1 complainant came in has no impact on whether this 2 court should find it reversible error to permit the 3 mother and brother to - - - to testify, as they did, 4 as to the details and - - - and to her repeating over 5 - - - over again how it was true, the - - - this court in held in People v. Kozlowski that - - - that 6 7 it crosses the line to - - - for witnesses to say 8 either directly or indirectly, to - - - to imply that 9 they believe a witness. That's what happened here 10 with the mother and brother. The - - - the essence 11 of their testimony is if they - - - if they're 12 questioning her, we believe her. That is 13 impermissible. Indeed, when the grandmother 14 attempted to testify- - -15 CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: The victim's 16 statement is really the only - - - the only real 17 evidence, right? 18 MR. SHIFFRIN: It's the only real evidence. 19 That's why - - - thank you. CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: So - - - so your 20 21 argument, we keep repeating that over and over again? 22 MR. SHIFFRIN: Yes, and which is the very 23 rationale - - - this court has stated repeatedly why

it's - - - it's error to permit prior consistent

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statements.

JUDGE SMITH: Well, I mean, it isn't just hu - - - I mean, you - - - you really wouldn't be as upset about it if it were nothing but straight repetition of her trial testimony. But the whole dramatic scene of her blurting this out to her brother, and her brother and her mother almost tormenting her to get it out of it, that obviously makes her seem more credible, doesn't it?

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MR. SHIFFRIN: I - - - I - - - I disagree with the predicate. I think it make - - - make - - - it makes it worse. But I would - - - I would still be upset, because the repetition of even just of her prior testimony as to the details of the sexual act is very, very prejudicial. Repetition doesn't increase trustworthiness. This court has said this numerous times in cases of - - - none of those cases are cited by the People.

JUDGE SMITH: Well, I mean, I - - - I mean, I - - - yeah. You may remember, I - - - I - - - I've said some things about, you know, repetition doesn't increase trustworthiness but juries can figure that out. Aren't - - - you - - - you're hurt by more than the repetition here. You're hurt by the fact this is very powerful evidence?

MR. SHIFFRIN: Absolutely, Your Honor.

1 CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: 2 MR. SHIFFRIN: 3 CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

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Okay.

Thank you, Your Honor.

Counsel?

MR. DUNHAM: May it please the court, Matthew Dunham appearing once again.

CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: How - - - counselor, how can it be okay that this keeps coming together? The victim's statements are really what this is all about, and it keeps coming in, coming in in different forms and ways, some, as Judge Smith says, theatr - -- theatrical. But it's repeated over and over again. How could that not be prejudicial?

MR. DUNHAM: Well, it's - - - I think it's not prejudicial, or if it - - - well, if it was prejudicial, it was the defense's own fault because they threw the doors wide open to this line of testimony during their opening statement and during their cross-examination of the victim. In the opening statement, the defense counsel states, she says, "This victim told her brother what happened. She told her mother what happened. She told the CPS She told a counselor from Catholic Family worker. Center. She told the East Rochester Police. She told the prosecutor, and then she went to grand jury and told her story."

JUDGE SMITH: Was - - - hadn't - - - hadn't

some of that already been mentioned in the People's

opening statement?

MR. DUNHAM: Well. some of it was

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MR. DUNHAM: Well, some of it was
mentioned. But I think the - - - the fact that the
counsel picked up on it and used this and went down
this line - - - and then I - - - if I could, just the
way she finishes it off then, defense counsel says,
"I don't think you're going to hear that anyone along
the line ever questioned the truthfulness of her
allegations until she got here." Implying this
witness is lying, and I'm going to expose it on
cross-examination. I think at that point the door
had been thrown open, and I think it continues - - -

JUDGE SMITH: How - - - the opening the door usually is used when there's something - - - when - - - when there's some unfairness or in this case, there'd be unfairness to the People. How - - - what - - - what is the unfairness in his making that argument and then later objecting to the boy's and the mother's testimony?

MR. DUNHAM: Well - - -

JUDGE SMITH: I mean, it sounds to me like all he's doing is failing - - - failing to pro - - - I mean if, indeed, he thinks all this testimony is

going to help him and he's keeping it out, he's 2 hurting himself. 3 MR. DUNHAM: Well, I - - - I think that's 4 part of - - - they kind of wanted it both ways, and I 5 think the court, Your Honor, touched on that a little 6 bit during defense counsel's argument. No, she - - defense counsel wanted this to come in her own way. 7 She didn't want it to come in - - - all - - - she 8 9 wanted certain information in. She didn't object to 10 some stuff, and then she wanted to be able to cut it 11 off when she wanted to cut it off. But - - -12 JUDGE SMITH: Explain how it's - - - how 13 this is - - - explain the unfairness to the People of 14 doing it that way. 15 MR. DUNHAM: Well, the unfairness is that 16 the - - - that the jury doesn't hear the full story. 17 What they hear is this witness has fabricated - - -18 JUDGE SMITH: Well - - - well, the jury's 19 not supposed to hear un - - - inadmissible evidence. 20 MR. DUNHAM: Well, and it - - - and it may 21 have been inadmissible under the current rules prior 22 to defense counsel coming forward and saying she's 23 lying. But once the defense counsel says she's 24 lying, and I - - - I don't know if she used the words

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	JUDGE SMITH: Does
2	MR. DUNHAM: exactly. She danced
3	around it a little bit.
4	JUDGE SMITH: Well, you you're saying
5	you you're talking you're saying
6	that it comes under to rebut recent fabrication?
7	MR. DUNHAM: Yes.
8	JUDGE SMITH: But how but what
9	what what but the motive to fabricate it
10	had already arisen?
11	MR. DUNHAM: You're saying by the by
12	the People's
13	JUDGE SMITH: By by the time of the
14	out-of-court statement.
15	MR. DUNHAM: Well, but well, I still
16	think it comes in that way because it's well,
17	what they're saying is this whole thing was a
18	fabrication. And that from the outset
19	JUDGE SMITH: Yeah. Yeah, they're saying
20	it's a fabrication. But the you can't rebut
21	that by saying she said it twenty times, unless the
22	first nineteen were at a time before that she had any
23	motive to fabricate. And then you can say it. But I
24	I don't see where that that applies here.
25	MR. DUNHAM: Well, even you know, we

1 --- we have other arguments here, as well, if ---2 if - - - if it doesn't apply - - -3 JUDGE SMITH: Let me ask you - - - I'm sure 4 you do. But let me - - - what was the basis on which 5 the courts below let this in? I mean they didn't say 6 opening the door. What did they say? MR. DUNHAM: No, they - - - they - - - I 7 8 think they agreed with the People's argument that 9 this goes to the - - - the effect that it had on the 10 brother, and - - - and what he did next and how this 11 JUDGE SMITH: Why - - - why is it - - - why 12 13 does the jury have to know the effect on the brother and what the brother did next other than - - - other 14 15 than tell the mother, which is just as inadmissible 16 as - - - as the first thing. Why - - - why - - - why 17 is there anything the jury was supposed to know about 18 what the - - - what narrative were you completing? 19 MR. DUNHAM: Well, we're completing the 20 narrative of - - - of how - - - of how this 21 investigation got started and how this case came to 22 be, which I think was highly relevant in this case. 23 JUDGE SMITH: I mean is - - - is it 2.4 generally the rule that you can - - - you - - - you -

- - you can - - - and if your ordinary criminal case

someone comes to the police and says oh, Joe Jones

robbed Harry Smith around the corner, you can - -
can you put it on the ca - - on the People's case

hearsay statements about whether - - the police

tell everything about how the investigation got

started? Anonymous witnesses came to me and said

this crime happened?

MR. DUNHAM: I think there's a limit to it.

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 $\mbox{ JUDGE SMITH: I would --- I would have } \\ \mbox{thought there was an absolute rule against it.}$

MR. DUNHAM: Well, I think one of the issues in this case is - - is defense counsel's lack of preservation of some of these particulars in some of these issues. Defense counsel let in quite a bit of testimony before objecting and - - -

JUDGE PIGOTT: You can do that, though.

Yeah, I mean you can - - - you can let evidence in that, you know, may be helpful to you even though it - - - it may be objectionable. I mean if - - - if the - - - if the defense wants to do that and you want to sit back and let them do it, that's perfectly fine. But at some point, usually when it starts to hurt, you can object. That - - I mean there's - - - there's nothing that says because you failed to

1 object to a hearsay statement yesterday you can no 2 longer object to hearsay statements today? 3 MR. DUNHAM: Correct, the defense - - - I 4 would agree the defense can make strategic decisions 5 along the way. I think what I'm getting at is that 6 if we really pare down what was objected to and what 7 is preserved, I think it's - - - it's not as - - - as 8 much as it sounds, and I think defense counsel wants 9 it to sound like she preserved all of this. What - -10 - first of all, she never objected on the grounds 11 that it was bolstering. She objected that it was 12 hearsay. 13 JUDGE SMITH: Is - - - ought - - - isn't 14 bolstering just another way of saying hearsay? I 15 mean isn't - - - isn't the bolstering rule a

subcategory of the hearsay rule?

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MR. DUNHAM: It is. It is, but I think that defense counsel should be required to specify. Especially when, in this case, the court seems to be being - - - it was a bit confused possibly by - - by the objection.

JUDGE PIGOTT: Because I thought that you could object that it was hearsay, and then whoever is offering that proof has to prove that there's an exception to the hearsay rule.

1 MR. DUNHAM: Yes, and then I think, in this 2 case, the - - - the off - - - the prosecutor offered 3 one up. And I think that - - - then it kind of - - this whole issue kind of went down a road that it 4 5 seemed that maybe the issue was being missed. And I - - - I don't think the court was grasping the issue. 6 7 And at that point, I think it's incumbent upon 8 defense counsel to say hold on, judge. I'm not 9 objecting because of this reason. What I'm trying to 10 say is this. And even if they don't use the word 11 "bolstering" it just - - - it never went down that 12 road. And - - - and - - - and the court should have 13 had the opportunity to correct this error, if it was 14 error, or make a ruling and it just never got that 15 opportunity. 16 CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Okay, thanks, 17

counselor.

MR. DUNHAM: Thank you.

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CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Rebuttal, counselor?

MR. SHIFFRIN: A few quick points, Your Honor. First of all, the pre - - - People below never preserved either the argument that there was a door opening by the defendant with - - - with respect to his opening statement. Or - - - and never argued at the trial court that this testimony should come in to re - - - to refute a recent fabrication claim.

This is - - - the - - - nei - - - neither of those arguments were made either at the trial court or at the Appellate Division. And - - - and the People's pres - - - preservation requirements are the same as the defendant's.

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Second, the defense counsel did not argue recent fabrication in - - - in her opening statement. The only attorney who mentioned fabrication in the opening was the prosecutor at the appendix pages 80- - - 82 through 85. That was - - the prosecution starts off first and talks about fabrication, not the defense attorney.

Third, if we adopt the position of the

People that - - - well, if it shows how - - - how the

investig - - - investigation came about, again, we
- - we've just ended the rule. Because in every case

there's an investigation, so you'll always let in

prior consistent statements.

And finally, the objection is correctly - - is a hearsay objection. Bolstering is the

prejudicial impact of the admission of impermissible

hearsay. And therefore, the correct objection is

hearsay. Thank you, Your Honors.

CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Okay, thank you.

1	Counselor on Cullen?
2	MS. McDERMOTT: Two minutes for rebuttal,
3	please.
4	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Two minutes, sure, go
5	ahead.
6	MS. McDERMOTT: May it please the court,
7	Kristen McDermott from the Hiscock Legal Aid Society
8	for William Cullen. This case is actually very
9	similar to Ludwig. Here the Fourth Department found
10	that the prior consistent statements from the
11	complainant's mother and her counselor were not
12	admitted for their truth. The difference
13	JUDGE SMITH: I mean it's similar to it,
14	but I don't see that that it had the kind of
15	impact in your case that it had in in Ludwig.
16	MS. McDERMOTT: I mean, in in terms
17	of the counselor's testimony, it was just pure
18	repetition. The mother's testimony did add the layer
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20	JUDGE SMITH: Did you object to the
21	counselor's testimony?
22	MS. McDERMOTT: Yes, the counselor
23	JUDGE SMITH: Oh, you did the counselor's,
24	but you didn't object to her, to to the victim,
25	telling that she told the counselor?

1 MS. McDERMOTT: Right, the counselor's and 2 the mother's were objected to. The complainant's 3 came in without objection. The - - - the mother's 4 testimony did add a layer of double hearsay to the 5 whole thing where she testified that both complainant and the counselor told her about the disclosures. 6 7 that was actually additional information. 8 JUDGE SMITH: But if that hadn't happened -9 - - I mean what's the jury supp - - - the jury knows

that sometime before the trial the victim told somebody about this. Big news, she told her counselor and her mother. So what? I mean you don't have the kind of story that you have in Ludwig of the --- the --- the --- the child sort of blurting out this revealing statement and her mother and brother working on her to get her to - - to - -- to - - - which would - - - bolsters her credibility enormously. You don't have the kind - - - that kind of thing here.

MS. McDERMOTT: I mean, we might have a more difficult harmless error argument, but I don't think that that means - - -

CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Well, you also have his own letters, right - - -

MS. McDERMOTT: Yes.

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1 CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: - - - that 2 incriminate him? Doesn't that put this case in a 3 very different context than the other one? 4 MS. McDERMOTT: Well, I mean, I think this 5 - - - this was not harmless, if - - - if that's what 6 Your Honor's saying. This case was largely based on the complainant's credibility. Even the letters were 7 8 based on her credibility. I mean, those five letters 9 that were in the group home - - -10 CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Right. MS. McDERMOTT: - - - only came from her. 11 12 The sixth letter has a very strange history that 13 doesn't make a lot of sense in the context of the 14 case. And I think it's very likely that a jury 15 pretty much dis - - - disregarded that letter, 16 because it just doesn't make a whole lot of sense. 17 CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: So you think the letters are irrelevant to what went in? 18 19 MS. McDERMOTT: Not completely irrelevant, 2.0 but I think that her credibility is still paramount 21 here. JUDGE SMITH: The sixth - - - I was - - - I 22 23 was - - - I was confused myself about that sixth 2.4 letter. Was that letter actually written earlier in

time - - - or it's apparently written earlier in time

1	than all the events that were the subject of the
2	indictment?
3	MS. McDERMOTT: It seems like it would have
4	to have been, because although Michelle (ph.) Cullen
5	turned it over in September 2008, much later, she's
6	claimed to have found it in her house when
7	complainant and Mr. Cullen moved out. Now,
8	complainant had never seen the letter, and she's
9	claimed that the first act of rape didn't happen for
10	four months after they moved out
11	JUDGE SMITH: So the
12	MS. McDERMOTT: of the house.
13	JUDGE SMITH: So the the inference
14	would be that the defendant wrote it and never sent
15	it?
16	MS. McDERMOTT: That I mean but
17	but he would have had to have written it after moving
18	out of the house. Written a very, very incriminating
19	
20	JUDGE SMITH: Sure but it sure makes
21	him sound like a rapist.
22	MS. McDERMOTT: No, and and on its
23	face it appears as an incriminating piece of
24	evidence, but when you look into the story you
25	realize it doesn't make any sense in the context.

1 The - - - the only explanation would be that he would 2 have to bring an incriminating letter to his 3 ex-wife's house where complainant nev - - - didn't 4 live, never visited, and just place it there for 5 someone to find. 6 So I - - - I know that the jury was aware 7 of the timing of this letter and the problems with 8 it, because there actually was a jury note asking to 9 hear about when complainant saw Exhibit 3-A. 10 think it's very likely that the jury may have picked 11 up on this. And - - - and the fact is that it really 12 all comes back to her credibility. Because if they -13 - - if they said okay, we can't rely on that note - -14 15 CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: But isn't - - - in -16 - - in your case isn't there less repeated discussion 17 of the - - - of the specific details of what went on 18 here? Isn't it a little different what - - - what 19 came in here as opposed to the other case? 20 MS. McDERMOTT: It - - - it is different, 21 but I don't think that that makes it admissible. 22 JUDGE READ: Well, there's not much beyond 23 the fact of the disclosure and the timing of the 2.4 disclosure.

25 MS. McDERMOTT: Well - - -

1 JUDGE READ: There's really no detail about 2 the disclosure? 3 MS. McDERMOTT: Right, there - - - there 4 wasn't any detail. 5 JUDGE READ: That's still objectionable? 6 MS. McDERMOTT: It is. I mean that's pure 7 prompt outcry right there. Prompt outcry is just the fact and the nature of the disclosure. 8 9 CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Yeah, but the impact 10 of it - - - as Judge Smith said, the impact of it is 11 - - - is so much less, isn't it? 12 MS. McDERMOTT: It may be less, but I don't 13 think that it's nothing. I think that it is 14 prejudicial. I think that bringing in a counselor 15 who's a professional witness, who has probably some 16 more credibility with the jury than the complainant 17 does, and having her repeat the fact that there was a 18 disclosure. And the - - - to have the mother say that the counselor repeated the disclosure to her. 19 20 think all of this - - - this repetition really could 21 go to convincing the jury that this disclosure meant 22 something, that this enhances, bolsters the 23 complainant's credibility.

Even to the extent that the prejudice here

is lower than it was in Ludwig, the probative value

2.4

1 is pretty much nothing. There's - - - there's no 2 probative value to these statements at all. So even 3 in just a traditional probative versus prejudicial 4 analysis, there's no reason to admit these statements 5 at all. So they really never should have come in. 6 CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Anything else, 7 counselor? MS. McDERMOTT: If I could address 8 9 ineffectiveness - - -10 CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Sure. 11 MS. McDERMOTT: - - - very quickly. CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Go ahead. 12 13 MS. McDERMOTT: There were several critical errors that defense counsel made in this case. I 14 15 think importantly, he elicited evidence of dozens of 16 uncharged rapes. 17 JUDGE SMITH: Wasn't - - - wasn't he - - -18 I mean, it may - - - may not have been very 19 successful, but wasn't it re - - - an attempt to - -2.0 - to - - - to get her to testify to such a ghastly 21 story that no one would believe it? 22 MS. McDERMOTT: I don't think so. I think 23 it's clear from the way it came out that that was not 2.4 a strategy because he said isn't it true that you 25 testified yesterday that it was every day? That was

just a false statement. He was just confused about what she had testified to. He then repeated that, by the way, in summation saying I believe she testified that it was every single day. So he - - - I think he was just - - he was just confused about what had happened. But I also don't think that that would be re - - a remotely reasonable strategy to get the complainant to accuse your client of ten - - -

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JUDGE SMITH: I mean but if you - - - if

you - - - if you can get the - - - yeah, I mean, if
- - if you can get the complainant to accuse your

client of being, you know, part of the 9/11

conspiracy or something, obviously, you've undermined

the - - - the complainant's credibility. Wasn't this

an unsuccessful attempt to achieve something like

that?

MS. McDERMOTT: I mean, I don't believe so, but even if it was, these statements were not inherently incredible. There's nothing about - - - this wasn't a 9/11 conspiracy claim. Her saying we've lived alone in a house for two weeks, the two of us and he raped me two to three times a week.

That's - - there's nothing really all that incredible about that, and the jury may very well have believed her. And the danger there is - - is

just as in Molineux evidence is that the jury will convict just because they think he's a bad guy.

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JUDGE SMITH: But - - - what about the problem that the jury, the only - - - yeah, if the jury is not inclined to bel - - - I mean it - - - it all - - - it all depends on her credibility, anyway. If the jury thinks she's credible, you don't need all these extra three rapes a week. If the jury doesn't think she's credible, she's not going to be any more credible when she testifies to a million more rapes.

MS. McDERMOTT: Well, I think the problem there is that there was an issue here with regard to the time periods of the Counts III through VI. And so ev - - even if the jury may have thought well, that couldn't have happened during the December visit because of what the caseworker said, they may have been more inclined to just throw up their hands and not care about the time periods because this is somebody raping his daughter up to forty times. Why would they care whether that criminal sexual act - -

JUDGE SMITH: The logical conclusion of that argument, though, would be that the error would be harmful only as to Counts IV through VI.

MS. McDERMOTT: It - - - it's possible.

It's possible. Although I do think it probably had 1 2 an effect on - - - on everything. 3 In addition, this case is very similar to Fisher in that counsel didn't object to a slew of 4 5 prosecutorial misconduct that I think was very, very harmful in this case. The DA said - - - asked the 6 7 jury to bring justice for the victim, made comments such as her mother may have failed her, her father 8 9 definitely failed her. Let's not let the criminal 10 justice system do the same. That's very, very improper and very prejudicial. It had no relevance 11 in this case. 12 13 And finally, as we alluded to, the failure 14 to object to the amend - - - the constructive 15 amendment of the indictment and - - - and make any 16 preju - - -17 JUDGE SMITH: And - - - and what is it that 18 you call constructive amendment? That's the charge 19 to the jury? 20 MS. McDERMOTT: Right, well, that's - - -21 JUDGE SMITH: What did - - - what did the judge tell them about the time period? 22 23 MS. McDERMOTT: The - - - the judge 2.4 expanded it for both Counts III and IV and V and VI.

CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: That really represent

the big - - - a big deal to expand it? 1 2 MS. McDERMOTT: For Counts V and VI, 3 definitely. Because there's a very good chance that 4 because counsel didn't make a prejudice argument 5 there, Mr. Cullen may have been acquitted of those 6 because the jury may have found that the December 7 visit - - -8 JUDGE SMITH: What - - - what is - - - what 9 is the - - - what prejudice could he have complained 10 of? 11 MS. McDERMOTT: Well, the entire - - - I 12 mean there was a - - - the big part of the defense 13 strategy here was time periods, saying, you know - -14 15 JUDGE SMITH: Well, I mean, I - - - I 16 understand that he complained of the fact that he - -17 - they - - - they could convict - - - he's obviously 18 more likely to convict. That's why the judge did it. 19 What's the unfairness? How is it - - - how - - - how 20 - - - how did this operate to make the trial less 21 fair? MS. McDERMOTT: The - - - the defense 22 23 wasn't prepared to have to prove that Mr. Cullen 24 didn't rape the complainant during the November 25 visit. And - - - and - - - or, I'm sorry, commit the

1 criminal sexual act during the November visit. So by 2 expanding the time periods, all of a sudden the 3 defense had to scramble and come up with the fact 4 that this couldn't have happened during the November 5 visit, when before they had only prepared to say this 6 couldn't have happened during this December visit, 7 which never happened. Thank you. 8 CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Okay, counselor. 9 MR. MAXWELL: James Maxwell for the People. 10 Good afternoon, may it please the court. 11 CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Go - - - go ahead. 12 MR. MAXWELL: Just to go into the second 13 issue very briefly, I hope. The - - - the attorney 14 had to answer the judge, and he answered with candor. 15 And he felt that no, he couldn't assert prejudice. 16 And I don't think it would serve any purpose to 17 remand for another trial for maybe to get a lawyer

JUDGE SMITH: I mean, some - - - not - - - not - - - not - - - there are some generally ethical lawyers who wouldn't be quite that candid in that situation. Is that not - - -

who wouldn't have candor.

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MR. MAXWELL: But he shouldn't be penalized for being candid. And the judge I think had already indicated he was going to charge the jury what about

1	about the concept of on or about. And it was
2	part of the case that the the thirteen year old
3	wasn't great on dates, and that was part of the case.
4	I think if you look at the overall performance of the
5	defense attorney, it was meaningful and that that
6	issue should be rejected.
7	JUDGE SMITH: Explain explain why the
8	why the the her disclosures to the
9	counselor and the mother were admissible?
10	MR. MAXWELL: Okay, I'd point you to your
11	own writing, there's a concurrence and dissent in
12	People v. Rosario.
13	JUDGE SMITH: Well, you you persuaded
14	me
15	MR. MAXWELL: Right.
16	JUDGE SMITH: but you've got six
17	other people you've got to work on.
18	MR. MAXWELL: All right, well, let me give
19	it a shot.
20	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Go ahead, counselor.
21	MR. MAXWELL: The the reading of your
22	case there in tandem with People v. Torrel Smith,
23	your more recent case where six of you talked about
24	letting in hearsay through the police officer on the
25	description, I think dovetails into leading this

court to take a short step, but an important step, in letting the trial judges know that they should have some discretion and some authority to let in some of this evidence that I think should come in in - - in cases like this.

2.4

Now here, the evidence that came in was extremely minor. The evidence through the mom was virtually nonexistent. It's almost comical to see the - - - our - - - my pros - - - my brother prosecutor trying to get the witness to say yes, she told me over the phone that dad woke up - - - she woke up and dad was next to her naked, and she just didn't go there. Okay, so we didn't really get anything in through mom.

Then with the counselor, the judge took control of the questioning and made a very narrow inquiry. Was there a disclosure by the victim that the - - - the dad did some sexual misconduct? What date was it? It was a very limited thing immediately followed by the judge saying this is not evidence that he's done anything wrong. And he says well, it's hearsay, but it's coming in to show what the witness did. And again says it's not evidence he did anything wro - - - he did anything wrong.

So it's emphatic that this is - - - this is

1	well, what I think what he meant by saying it's
2	hearsay that it was and if it was hearsay it
3	wasn't coming in at all that it was coming in
4	for a nonhearsay purpose, a really minor purpose. As
5	is as is clear from the record, that witness
6	really didn't the the counselor named
7	Gould, she really didn't do much other than recover
8	the letters and she did relay
9	JUDGE SMITH: Was was the evidence
10	overwhelming? And do you need do you need that
11	extra that sixth letter to make it
12	overwhelming?
13	MR. MAXWELL: I think it was it was
14	overwhelming even with just the five letters and
15	perhaps even without the letters. And
16	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: But the letters
17	certainly help?
18	MR. MAXWELL: The letters, he he
19	looks
20	JUDGE SMITH: The the
21	the sixth the sixth letter is possibly the most
22	disgusting thing you could imagine.
23	MR. MAXWELL: Yes.
24	JUDGE SMITH: Although it doesn't as
25	far as I know, doesn't refer to any rape in the time

1 period in the indictment? 2 MR. MAXWELL: Right, but I think you have 3 to look at the big picture. And how that letter got from one place to another, it is curious. 4 5 CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: What's your 6 speculation as to how it got there? 7 MR. MAXWELL: But it's still his handwriting. It's still his codes - - -8 9 CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: So how's it there? 10 You don't know? 11 MR. MAXWELL: Well, it - - - it's his code words for various things. It's - - -12 13 JUDGE SMITH: Is - - - is - - - is the reason that - - - is the reason that both sides find 14 15 this so inexplicable is that maybe it discredits both 16 the defendant and the complaining witness? That, in 17 fact, there was much more relationship - - - there 18 was a relationship at a time that she never testified 19 to? 20 MR. MAXWELL: That's possible, and it's 21 possible - - - I mean we had to try and identify - -- because she was over twelve and we couldn't use the 22 course of criminal - - - course of sexual 23 2.4 conduct-type offense, we had to try and isolate

individual instances. There were many more

1 instances. And children, even getting into their 2 teenage years, can't always pinpoint when things 3 started, when things stopped, what was going on when. 4 But I would like to suggest seven reasons why you 5 should adopt Judge Smith's rule for - - - for - - -CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Go ahead, kick them 6 7 off. 8 MR. MAXWELL: Give me - - - just give me -9 - - give me about a minute. 10 CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Go ahead. 11 JUDGE PIGOTT: Well, there's only six of us. Well, go ahead. 12 13 MR. MAXWELL: Well, he's going to have to 14 stay with you on this. 15 JUDGE PIGOTT: Okay. 16 CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Go ahead, seven 17 reasons. 18 MR. MAXWELL: All right, number one, it's 19 going to be like a David Letterman thing but there 20 are only seven. The jury, once they hear it from the 21 victim, they would naturally expect to hear it from 22 the mother, from the counselor, and it doesn't really 23 add much but it really could make the jury wonder if 2.4 we didn't - - - don't even call those witness or we

call mom, we don't even ask her. So one is the jury

1 would expect it. It's fair to the jury for them to 2 hear it. 3 Two is that it explains the conduct of the 4 third party, which wasn't real vital in this case but 5 could be in another. Three is that it's not admitted for - - -6 7 if it's not admitted for the truth, then under the 8 Torrel Smith case that some reasoning - - - if it's -9 - - if it comes in through the victim as non - - -10 for nonhearsay purposes or as nonhearsay it should 11 come in through the third parties as well. 12 Fourth, it harmonizes with the child sex 13 abuse accommodation syndrome evidence, which is 14 admissible and part of these type of cases. 15 Fifth, it counterbalances the - - - there 16 was delay so she must be disbelieved argument that -17 - - that happens in some of these cases and was going 18 on here. 19 Next, it - - - it's similar to the 20 reasoning behind the prompt complaint rule. That is, 21 without it is the jury going to be left wondering, 22 gee, can we really believe this person? 23 Seventh, it's fair to give a complete 2.4 picture whether you call it - - -

JUDGE SMITH: And how many - - - how many

1 of those seven arguments were made - - - did the 2 prosecution make at trial? 3 MR. MAXWELL: Well, the problem is, and you 4 know, that when the judge called the parties up to 5 the bench and had a - - a little talk about this when the mom was testifying, he goes back on the 6 7 record and says I'm going to limit it but I'm going to let the - - - the - - - some limited testimony for 8 9 the reasons I just discussed at the bench and because 10 they already heard it from the - - - from the - - -11 from the - - -12 JUDGE SMITH: So - - - so in theory every 13 one of those arguments could have been made - - -14 MR. MAXWELL: Yeah. 15 JUDGE SMITH: - - - and they'll never know? 16 MR. MAXWELL: Never know. Then the other -17 - - and then when the other witness, Abigail Gould, 18 testified the only reason he gave was it explains 19 what she did. 20 So that is the state of the record. 21 admit it, perhaps that we should have done more. 22 Perhaps the defense should have made a record. 23 not preserved, in my view, when the judge - - -2.4 there's an objection and the judge says I'm going to

limit, but I'm going to give - - - give some to each

side.

2.4

And it is very limited to the point where we never really got anything out of mom. And the - - under the People v. Heide that I cite, in those circumstances the defense should have come back and said well, I'm not satisfied with just getting it limited and so it's not preserved.

The other thing I would suggest before I - - before I yield the floor is that it - - - it
should come in. And the judge could give a curative
instruction or a limiting instruction to explain to
the jury that - - - you know, in case there's some
concern that the jury is somehow going to think
because of repetition they're going to believe it
that, you know, the mere fact that it's said, the
mere fact that it's repeated, doesn't mean that the
person who's this third-party witness actually saw
what happened.

And you could give a very brief instruction on it from the trial - - - for the - - - the trial court to give a very brief instruction and move on.

I think these two cases, Ludwig and this one, show judges, trial judges, kind of unsure. I think they're - - - they're - - -

JUDGE RIVERA: Does - - - does it matter

who says it? Just going back to that point about I think your adversary's suggesting it matters who says it. Perhaps they speak with an authoritative voice.

Does that matter?

2.4

MR. MAXWELL: I think it does matter, but I think - - I think you also should - - should consider juror expectations. If - - if the - - - the child or the teenager says it happened and I told my mom or I told my counselor, I think the jury's going to expect - - you called the counselor and they - - they don't say that the child said this?

Not - - not just - - not because it - - it's true or not true just because she said it, but how come they didn't ask that person? Or - - and then they're not so much authoritative as they're kind of the - - the explanation of how it came out.

And was she halting, was she angry, demeanor. Well, if you're going to argue from the defense side that you shouldn't believe her because it was a delay, well, let's be fair to the jurors and to the People. Let's let it all out there. Let's show how it came out. What was going on when it came out? I think, in fairness, we should have been able to do a lot more with the counselor and with mom in this trial. And I think that the trial was very fair

1	to the defendant.
2	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Okay, counselor.
3	Thanks.
4	MR. MAXWELL: Thank you. I'd ask you to
5	affirm.
6	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Thank you.
7	Counselor, rebuttal?
8	MS. McDERMOTT: First, I'd just like to
9	point out, as Your Honor was alluding, this is not
10	preserved. As in Rosario, if the DA's urging that
11	this court change the law, that's something that
12	requires preservation.
13	But I think if this court is inclined to
14	change this longstanding rule against prior
15	consistent statements, this is not the case to do it
16	In this case
17	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: If we don't if
18	we don't change it, you win?
19	MS. McDERMOTT: Yes.
20	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: You should win the
21	case?
22	MS. McDERMOTT: I yes, because there
23	was there was
24	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: In the context of
25	this case what came in, the the incriminating

1 letters. You still feel that it's not overwhelming?

2.4

MS. McDERMOTT: I do. I - - - it's - - - it's not harmless error here just because I think it all comes back to complainant's credibility. And when you're bolstering her credibility, you just - - - I mean we just don't know what effect that had on the jury. And it's likely that it had a big effect. And so I - - I don't think that the evidence is overwhelming here.

I'd just like to point out I think that my adversary referred to the limiting instruction that was given. That limiting instruction was, I think, more confusing than helpful because it said that it explained the subsequent conduct of the witness.

That - - - the - - - there was no subsequent conduct of the counselor for it to explain. There was nothing else the jury heard that the counselor did.

So I don't think that that could have possibly helped them to know how to use the evidence.

Just - - - I'd just like to say again, over - - - overruling the longstanding prohibition against prior consistent statements I think would be a bad idea. I think the current rule is a good one. There are two exceptions that I think serve a very good purpose, and they - - - they strike a good balance

1	against between the defendant's right to a fair
2	trial and the DA's ability to fairly present his
3	case. And under the principles of stare decisis you
4	need a compelling reason to abandon long-existing
5	rules, and I don't think that we have that here.
6	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Okay, counselor.
7	MS. McDERMOTT: Thank you.
8	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Thanks. Thank all of
9	you.
10	(Court is adjourned)
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CERTIFICATION

I, Sara Winkeljohn, certify that the foregoing transcript of proceedings in the Court of Appeals of People v. Daniel A. Ludwig, No. 166, and People v. Cullen, No. 167 was prepared using the required transcription equipment and is a true and

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