1	COURT OF APPEALS	
2	STATE OF NEW YORK	
3		-
4	THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK,	
5	Respondent,	
6	-against-	No. 18
7	JOSE VELEZ,	
8	Appellant.	
9		20 Eagle Street Albany, New York February 12, 2020
10	Before:	1001441, 11, 2010
11	CHIEF JUDGE JANET DIFI	
12	ASSOCIATE JUDGE JENNY R ASSOCIATE JUDGE LESLIE E.	
13	ASSOCIATE JUDGE EUGENE M. ASSOCIATE JUDGE MICHAEL J.	
14	ASSOCIATE JUDGE ROWAN D. ASSOCIATE JUDGE PAUL FE	
15		
16	Appearances:	
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25	Offici	al Court Transcriber



Μy

1 CHIEF JUDGE DIFIORE: The next appeal on this 2 afternoon's calendar is appeal number 18, the People of the 3 State of New York v. Jose Velez. 4 MS. SHIVERS: Good afternoon, Your Honors. 5 name is Yvonne Shivers. I represent Jose Velez. 6 I'd like to request two minutes for rebuttal. 7 CHIEF JUDGE DIFIORE: You may. 8 MS. SHIVERS: Thank you. Much of what I would 9 cover has been covered by the first case, but I wanted to 10 point out something about the - - - the proposition that 11 the electropherogram is the equivalent of the raw data for 12 any purpose counsel could use it for. 13 14 15

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One thing defense counsel specifically stated in his motion was that: "Given its scale, it would be impossible to tell from the printed electropherogram whether information that ought to have been labeled an allele was not labeled an allele."

That's one more clear indication that getting the electropherogram would not be enough for an expert to evaluate whether or not the findings were mistaken, incorrect, or there were significant problems with it.

Counsel, if you were to get the JUDGE GARCIA: raw data - - let's say it's now, and you got the raw data, would that cure any confrontation violation under Sean John?

1 MS. SHIVERS: Um - - -2 JUDGE GARCIA: Because Sean John says, you know, 3 you need to have an analyst up there who's comparing the -4 - - the final product to the raw data. So if the defense 5 has the raw data and can cross on it, does that cure the 6 confrontation problem? 7 MS. SHIVERS: No, not necessarily. I mean, in 8 this case the analyst who - - - the criminalist who 9 testified had not examined the raw data. And if you look 10 at her testimony, which is something that - - -11 JUDGE STEIN: Is that because if she had then the 12 expert could cross-examine her on - - - you know, now you 13 have dueling experts, so you've got a credibility issue, 14 right? 15 Right. MS. SHIVERS: 16 JUDGE STEIN: And so you - - -17 MS. SHIVERS: So - - -18 JUDGE STEIN: Right? And you - - -19 MS. SHIVERS: Yes, and it's important for the 20 expert, the defense expert, to be able to not only have 21 their own expert, perhaps, present it, but also to cross-22 examine the person who examined the raw data. 23 In this case it's clear, just going - - - sort of

jumping over to the Sean John issue, that the analyst did

not examine the raw data. In fact, her testimony was a lot

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like the criminalist in John. The criminalist in John said that she looked to everything that had been done, reviewed the results of the editing, to make sure she agreed that the artifacts should have been taken out. The criminalist here testified that she reviewed each and every portion of the testimo - - of the testing that occurred in this case. That's basically what she said.

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Now, the People contend that - - - that what this means, based on a case they cited called Corey, is that she sort of redid everything when in fact that wasn't her testimony. That was the testimony of the criminalist in Corey. The criminalist in Corey specifically said I redid it, the testing of the raw data. And that's completely distinguishable from this case in which the analyst did not do that. So on that basis alone, the - - - the defendant was deprived of his confrontation rights.

JUDGE FEINMAN: Didn't she also testify that, with respect to the defendant's oral swab, she developed a full DNA profile from the sample? Isn't that the record at 151? And if so, what does that tell us?

MS. SHIVERS: She developed a full DNA profile from the sample? I believe she testified that someone did, but that she personally did not.

JUDGE FEINMAN: Okay. I may have misread the record. That's why I'm asking.



1	MS. SHIVERS: Yeah, I think the record clearly
2	shows that she did not take part in any of the tests or any
3	of the editing of the raw data with respect to the DNA
4	report that was generated from the defendant's buccal
5	buccal swab in this case. All she did was some sort of a
6	review that she doesn't make clear, from her testimony, was
7	a redoing of the tests.
8	JUDGE FAHEY: Let me ask this. If we go through
9	the same analysis on analysis on mandatory disclosure
10	that we were talking about in the other case, in other
11	words, a product prepared at the request of the

MS. SHIVERS: If -- it depends on how this court sees its - - - the remedy for - - -

prosecution, is it necessary for us to reach those other

issues? You had two other issues, the - - - the Sean John

JUDGE FAHEY: I see.

issue and then a due-process issue.

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MS. SHIVERS: - - - the first - - - the discovery issue.

JUDGE FAHEY: Okay. Because the disclosure in this case was a little bit more developed than it was in some of the other cases. I understood here that the judge denied a subpoena but said you could bring it back under certain circumstances.

> MS. SHIVERS: Correct.



JUDGE FAHEY: And then there wasn't a subsequent 1 2 subpoena requested; is that right? 3 MS. SHIVERS: Correct. 4 JUDGE FAHEY: So - - - so your argument is then 5 the 240.20(1)(c) is a separate analysis from what applies under the subpoena section of 240.20(2)? 6 7 MS. SHIVERS: Correct. 8 JUDGE FAHEY: Right. 9 MS. SHIVERS: And - - - and with respect to the subpoena, what the court was asking counsel to do was meet 10 an - - - an extraordinary or much greater - - -11 12 JUDGE FAHEY: You know, with respect to the 13 court, it - - - it seemed that it conflated the Brady 14 applications with other applications. And she said it on 15 her decision. But there's no reason for us to go into that 16 at any great length, just that there was a subpoena process 17 here that subsequently was tried. 18 JUDGE STEIN: So just to be clear, and I want to 19 make sure I understand you, are you saying that if we were 20 to agree that you are entitled to the discovery, and reverse and send it back for a new trial, then we don't 2.1 2.2 need to get to the confrontation clause issue, but if we 23 only use the DaGata remedy, then we do need to get to the 24 confrontation clause issue? Is that what you're saying?

MS. SHIVERS: Partly yes.

1 JUDGE STEIN: Okay. 2 MS. SHIVERS: I would urge the court not - - -3 even if it only found that the discovery should have been 4 turned over, I would urge the court to still reverse and 5 grant a new trial. 6 The reason this is different from DaGata is that 7 in this case counsel's motion was made pre-trial. And in 8 DaGata that was a, I believe, 330 motion after a verdict 9 had already been rendered, and therefore the remedy should 10 be different. JUDGE STEIN: But here we - - -11 12 MS. SHIVERS: I would argue that here - - -13 JUDGE STEIN: - - - have a verdict also, right? 14 MS. SHIVERS: I'm sorry? 15 JUDGE STEIN: Here we have a verdict also. 16 MS. SHIVERS: We have a verdict, but the motion 17 for the discovery was made pre-trial and - - -18 JUDGE FEINMAN: You also have just - - - I mean, 19 330 is just not applicable here. 20 MS. SHIVERS: Granted, but my argument is that 21 the defendant should be returned to the position he was 22 pre-trial and then, you know, give them the discovery and 23 be able to use whatever - - -24 JUDGE GARCIA: If we reverse on confrontation 25 grounds and send it back for a new trial, you would apply

1 the new discovery rule, right? 2 MS. SHIVERS: Um-hum, yes. 3 JUDGE GARCIA: You would get the discovery? 4 MS. SHIVERS: That's correct. 5 JUDGE FAHEY: So that would solve the problem? 6 MS. SHIVERS: That would. 7 JUDGE FAHEY: Yes, okay. CHIEF JUDGE DIFIORE: Thank you, counsel. 8 9 MS. SHIVERS: Thank you. 10 CHIEF JUDGE DIFIORE: Counsel? 11 MR. YI: I just want to speak briefly on the 12 remedy because I didn't speak on that in the prior case. 13 So the remedy is laid out in DaGata. If this court does 14 reverse, the case should be sent back so that they can make 15 a showing that this is going to create some reasonable 16 probability of a more favorable result on retrial. 17 sending it back for a new trial, without knowing that, the 18 - - - the trial could end up as, you know, they don't even 19 use the raw data at all. So it really could result in an 20 unjustified windfall. 21 JUDGE FEINMAN: So basically, order the discovery 22 to be turned over and then let them figure out whether they 23 want to bring a 440 motion.



matters whether it's, you know, the 330.30 in DaGata or

MR. YI: Basically. I mean, I don't think it

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440, right. 1 2 JUDGE FEINMAN: We're past 330. We're - - -3 MR. YI: Right. 4 JUDGE FEINMAN: - - - post-judgment - - -5 MR. YI: Right. JUDGE FEINMAN: - - - of conviction. 6 7 That's - - - that's their distinction. MR. YI: 8 I was just saying that that distinction I don't think 9 matters. 10 JUDGE RIVERA: But counsel, do you disagree that, if the court finds that there is indeed a confrontation, 11 12 defendant's confrontation rights were violated, that we 13 need not answer this question because, under the new - - -14 as Judge Garcia has pointed out, under the new discovery 15 statute, they will have the opportunity to request that raw 16 data and you have to turn it over, right? 17 MR. YI: That - - - that sounds like the way it -18 - - the way it would go, yeah. If this court reverses on 19 the confrontation - - - I mean - - -20 JUDGE GARCIA: Counsel, you don't - - -21 MR. YI: - - - you know, I - - -22 JUDGE GARCIA: I'm sorry; finish answering. 23 sorry; I didn't mean to interrupt you. 24 MR. YI: No, just - - - just briefly, I mean, but 25 you know, what - - - what I really find ironic, though,

1	about both these cases is that we're dealing with
2	confrontation. And yet they had experts before them that
3	were involved in the actual editing process, the most
4	important stage, and yet they asked nothing about that.
5	They didn't ask about the allele cools, they didn't ask
6	about the edits. So
7	JUDGE GARCIA: Well, this case took place before
8	Sean John, right, was decided?
9	MR. YI: Correct; this is a pre-Sean John
10	decision.
11	JUDGE GARCIA: So if if we were to reverse,
12	it goes back it goes back under you're not
13	suggesting that, if we find a confrontation clause
14	violation here, there's a harmless-error way out of this
15	for you, right?
16	MR. YI: Oh, no, we make a a harmless-error
17	argument because it was based
18	JUDGE GARCIA: It was the only evidence in the
19	case, right, the DNA evidence? I mean, what would the
20	harmless-error analysis be?
21	MR. YI: Well, being that she worked on the crime
22	scene sample; that was the first link in the chain that
23	linked the defendant to this crime. She was
24	JUDGE GARCIA: That was
25	MR YT the analyst



1	JUDGE GARCIA: Austin, right?
2	MR. YI: Excuse me?
3	JUDGE GARCIA: I mean, that was Austin, wasn't
4	it? I mean, Austin was a cold hit
5	MR. YI: Right.
6	JUDGE GARCIA: then confirmed by a a
7	swab, a known sample later, and that didn't save the
8	verdict in Austin, right?
9	MR. YI: Well, I mean, the the People in
10	Austin didn't rely upon the cold hit. They they
11	relied upon the later testing.
12	JUDGE GARCIA: So that seems
13	MR. YI: And here you did have the cold hit.
14	JUDGE GARCIA: They they did, but you
15	I think it's clear from this record that, as testimony, yo
16	relied on the known sample for the link.
17	MR. YI: Well, as Your Honor, I believe, noted is
18	your dissent in Austin, that's really just redundant or -
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20	JUDGE GARCIA: So I believe in Austin
21	MR. YI: duplicative, I I don't
22	remember the words you used, but that that's
23	basically what you were going for. It all started with
24	that crime scene sample. That's what initially linked him
25	to this crime So this is a classic T think cold hit

case. And that's why I would submit that any error would be harmless.

JUDGE GARCIA: But I think, again, the distinction that was drawn in Austin, and this was discussed in those two opinions, was there was a cold hit in Austin, same type of cold hit that happened here. It was a crime scene DNA developed, put into the system, it hits.

In Austin, they didn't do the match in a way that was - - - there was no foundation laid for it linking the crime scene sample to the database sample. And as I read this record, that's the same thing that happened here. I mean, while there might have been a little more discussion that there was some type of hit in a database system, there was no scientific testimony saying this was a known sample of the defendant, and the foundation for that in this database that we then compared to. So there was no independent analysis - - - as I read the transcript, and correct me if I'm wrong - - - of that cold hit, you know, that's - -

MR. YI: You're talking about this case now, Judge?

JUDGE GARCIA: Yeah.

MR. YI: Independent analysis - - -

JUDGE GARCIA: And I think it's the same as



1 Austin in that way, it seems. 2 MR. YI: Well, I mean, in Austin - - - but still, 3 in Austin they didn't use that. They used the next round 4 of testing. So here we had substantive evidence of that 5 cold hit presented. 6 JUDGE STEIN: But I thought that was only 7 admitted to show how they - - - why they went after - - -8 MR. YI: You're talking about this case now? 9 JUDGE STEIN: In this case. 10 MR. YI: Okay. 11 JUDGE STEIN: This defendant not for - - - and 12 that the foundation wasn't laid to actually use it to 13 compare. 14 JUDGE GARCIA: In the Sean John sense of linking 15 this defendant to this crime - - -16 JUDGE STEIN: Right. 17 JUDGE GARCIA: - - - it was the swab, the known 18 sample - -19 JUDGE STEIN: Right. 20 JUDGE GARCIA: - - - that was used. 21 MR. YI: Well, I don't think there was any 22 limiting language at trial saying this isn't being admitted 23 for its truth. You know, it - - - it was admitted as a - -24 - just for - - - for what it was, for its truth.



Now - - - now if your question is about the state

DNA database hit, I mean - - - I mean, is that where you're going with that in terms of in the - - -

JUDGE GARCIA: Well, that was a cold hit, right?

The cold hit is the database hit, isn't it?

MR. YI: Right.

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JUDGE GARCIA: So it seems to me there was no independent comparison with a proper foundation, and in Austin the problem they had was they didn't bring an analyst down who could authenticate, essentially, the sample that was in the database, as I recall, for whatever reasons, objections by the defendant or logistical problems.

So in this case I think they talk about the fact that the three things match, but the actual comparison that's done, linking this defendant to the crime scene, is done between the crime scene DNA profile and the swab profile, the known sample they took after the arrest.

MR. YI: But also a significant difference is that this court found in Austin that the analyst who testified had basically nothing to do with anything. Even — — even the trial court referred to the analyst not as an analyst but as a parrot. He was just parroting the testimony of — — or rather, just parroting the results that were, you know, come to by other analysts. So — — so I think that's a very significant difference here.



And just - - - just to touch upon the subpoena in Velez, you know, the trial court made a very clear ruling which they didn't comply with. All the trial court wanted was some type of affidavit from an expert showing that, you know, you can do something with this that might go somewhere.

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They had the FB reports at that time. They could have had an expert review those FB reports and perhaps substantiate - - - you know, provide some substantiation for this claim that you can do something with this raw data, that there's not enough in these FB reports to really analyze everything. And they didn't do that, you know.240

And that also goes to the right to present a defense claim. Again, they didn't cross-examine them about any of this. There's no indication they sought an expert out. So you know that, I think, really undermines the entire premise of their claim, that they needed this raw data to really present a defense. They had quite a bit in front of them already, upon which they could have built a defense, and they didn't do anything.

And this court ruled in Colavito that a calculated lack of initiative should not be rewarded.

That's what you have in this case, a calculated lack of initiative.

Just - - - just to - - - is my time - - -



CHIEF JUDGE DIFIORE: No, no, sir.

MR. YI: Oh, I'm sorry.

CHIEF JUDGE DIFIORE: You can - - -

MR. YI: Just - - - just to touch a little bit on - - - on the - - - on the OCME and the control aspect of all of this because in Velez they - - - they say something in their reply brief that just isn't true. They - - - they basically try to make the OCME out to be sort of like our hand puppet, like, when - - when we say jump, you know, they say how high. And that's just simply not the case.

I can give numerous examples to this court of testing that the OCME has refused to do for us. For example, they refuse to test shell casings and cartridges in most cases. No testing of vomit or excrement. No testing of swabs from automobiles used in ---

JUDGE STEIN: Is this in the record?

MR. YI: It's not in the record; it's based upon my - - - we - - - we didn't have a chance to elaborate this in our brief because they brought this up in their reply brief. So I'm just - - - but - - - but no. No, it's not in the actual appendix or anything like that. I - - - I'd just like to provide some examples to the court to show that the OCME's discretion doesn't mean that they're under our control, that we have control of every single document that they have in their - -



JUDGE FAHEY: No, I think that's a fair - - - I 1 2 mean, it's a fair rhetorical statement. I mean, there's 3 nothing unfair about what you're saying. But the problem 4 is - - - is whether or not they're producing a document at 5 your request for your use in trial. And - - - and if 6 they're produce - - - and also to assist them in their 7 examination at trial. So that's - - - and how we view that 8 really, I think, goes to the mandatory disclosure question. 9 I - - - I'm not saying that you control OCME all the way. 10 I wouldn't - - -MR. YI: Right, and this - - -11 12 JUDGE FAHEY: I don't think that's correct. 13 MR. YI: Right, and that's what this court - - -JUDGE FAHEY: But that doesn't - - -14 15 MR. YI: Sorry. 16 JUDGE FAHEY: It still doesn't mean you don't 17 have to disclose - - - that they don't have to disclose 18 certain things. 19 MR. YI: I mean - - -20 JUDGE FAHEY: That's what I'm talking about. 21 MR. YI: I mean, I'm just saying, as a practical 22 matter, even if you go with Your Honor's argument and call 23 it mandatory, if an outside agency, not a law enforcement



agency - - - agency has something, and we say, please give

it to us and they say, sorry, can't help you, we have too

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many other cases, this is going to require an enormous - -1 2 - it's - - - it's going to impose an enormous burden on us 3 to generate this data, it's going to take a month in every 4 case, you know, where - - - where does this mandatory 5 disclosure leave us then if we simply cannot get it? I 6 mean, we can't break into their offices and take the raw data. I mean, it's just not something we have access to. 7 8 JUDGE RIVERA: Is that still the case? 9 MR. YI: No. No, now - - - now there's some sort 10 of computer portal where you can get this information - - -11 JUDGE RIVERA: No, if we reverse and under the 12 new statute they have access, this would not take a month -13 14 MR. YI: No. 15

JUDGE RIVERA: - - - to produce - -

MR. YI: No, I - - -

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JUDGE RIVERA: - - - correct?

MR. YI: I don't know the exact time frame it takes, but it's not - - - it's not a month anymore. Over the years it started going down, if you see, you know, decisions that came out after this case, but that doesn't take away from the fact that, at the time these cases were decided, this was the response they gave us.

JUDGE FEINMAN: So in other words, somehow if something is mandatory and discoverable and they're ordered



1 to produce it, you find a way. 2 They found a way. I don't know if the MR. YI: 3 technology existed or the, you know, computer code was 4 written to - - - I have no idea how this portal works. Ι 5 don't know why it couldn't be implemented back then, but it 6 wasn't. And - - -JUDGE RIVERA: But in any event, you concede now 7 8 that the People do not have an argument that it's unduly 9 burdensome because they can do this now on a very short 10 timeframe. MR. YI: Yeah, I - - -11 12 JUDGE RIVERA: They will because - - -13 I don't know what the time frame is, but 14 yeah, no, I mean, the - - - the burden argument doesn't 15 seem to apply anymore. 16 JUDGE RIVERA: Thank you. 17 CHIEF JUDGE DIFIORE: Thank you, counsel. 18 MR. YI: And I see my time is up, and I ask you 19 to uphold the lower court's decision. Thank you. 20 CHIEF JUDGE DIFIORE: Thank you. 21 Counsel? 22 MS. SHIVERS: Just briefly on the issue of undue 23 burden. First of all, it was mandatory that this be 24 produced, and the People made no showing that this was so 25 burdensome as in the case it cited, Sackett, that the OCME



would not have responded. And critically, the People did 1 2 They admit that in their brief. They admit they 3 didn't seek the data. Therefore it's unreasonable to argue 4 that OCME wouldn't have produced it. 5 Further, in response to the subpoena, the OCME 6 did not argue that it was unduly burdensome to produce it. The OCME argued that defense counsel didn't establish that 7 8 it was both relevant and exculpatory. 9 And going to the respondent's claim that there 10 was a calculated lack of follow-up on the subpoena, the reason counsel could not have followed up on its subpoena 11 12 is because he required the raw data in order to show 13 relevancy and exculpatory, which is why there's a discovery 14 statute, so that in discovering material that is 15 discoverable, counsel does not have to make these showings. 16 JUDGE RIVERA: Counsel, just - - -

MS. SHIVERS: Finally - - -

JUDGE RIVERA: I just want to make sure I - - -

MS. SHIVERS: I'm sorry.

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JUDGE RIVERA: - - - I understand. In addition to with the raw data, if you have your expert - - - expert looking and - - - and making - - - making conclusions about whether or not OCME's analysis is correct or has some errors or has some concerns - - -

MS. SHIVERS: Um-hum.



JUDGE RIVERA: - - - your expert could have, or 1 2 the defendant's expert could have also run it themselves? 3 That expert could have done it themselves - -4 MS. SHIVERS: I think there was some - - -5 JUDGE RIVERA: - - - and made decisions about 6 what to edit or not, or that is not what the defense was 7 seeking to do with an expert and the raw data? 8 MS. SHIVERS: Yes, if the expert was provided 9 with the raw data, the expert could run their own test, 10 right, and - - - and decide whether - - - not only whether or not the tables provided by the People were correct but 11 12 just generally making an independent assessment. 13 JUDGE RIVERA: Okay. Thank you. 14 MS. SHIVERS: In terms of harmless error, I would 15 just say that the one - - - even if there were only 16 evidence of the - - - the hit on the state database, that 17 doesn't compare with the power of the criminalist testimony 18 that she took the oral swab from the defendant, she found 19 that it - - - the DNA profile was the same, and that it 20 would appear only in 1 in 6.8 trillion people, or I don't 21 remember how many earths. So clearly this - - - this was 22 not harmless error, and I would ask the court to reverse. 23 Thank you. 24 CHIEF JUDGE DIFIORE: Thank you, counsel.

(Court is adjourned)

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