

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR PINELLAS COUNTY
CASE NUMBER 23-02935-CFANO

STATE OF FLORIDA,

Plaintiff,

TOMASZ ROMAN KOSOWSKI,

Defendant.

_____ /

PROCEEDINGS: HEARING

BEFORE: The Honorable Joseph A. Bulone
Circuit Court Judge

DATE: May 1, 2025

PLACE: Courtroom 9
Pinellas County Justice Center
14250 - 49th Street North
Clearwater, Florida 33762

REPORTER: Tina D. McComb
Registered Professional Reporter

(Pages 1 to 32)

Administrative Office of the Courts
Court Reporting Department
Criminal Justice Center
14250 49th Street North
Clearwater, Florida 33762
Telephone: (727) 453-7233
Fax: (727) 453-7488

APPEARANCES

**APPEARING ON BEHALF OF
THE STATE OF FLORIDA:**

NATHAN VONDERHEIDE, ASSISTANT STATE ATTORNEY
Office of Bruce Bartlett, State Attorney
Sixth Judicial Circuit, Pinellas County
14250 - 49th Street North
Clearwater, Florida 33762

**APPEARING ON BEHALF OF
THE DEFENDANT TOMASZ ROMAN KOSOWSKI:**

BJORN E. BRUNVAND, ESQUIRE
BRUNVAND WISE, P.A.
615 Turner Street
Clearwater, Florida 33756

AMANDA POWERS SELLERS, ESQUIRE
6344 Roosevelt Boulevard
Clearwater, Florida 33760

* * *

INDEX TO PROCEEDINGS

(MAY 1, 2025)

	<u>PAGE</u>
PROCEEDINGS COMMENCED	4
CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER	32

~~P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S~~

THE COURT: Good morning. You may be seated.

(OTHER CASES WERE HEARD BEFORE RETURNING TO STATE OF FLORIDA VERSUS TOMASZ KOSOWSKI)

THE COURT: All right. So I think there's actually three motions before the Court at this point. And which one would you like to have heard first?

MR. BRUNVAND: I believe the one that has to be heard first is the motion to withdraw due to conflict.

THE COURT: Uh-huh.

MR. BRUNVAND: It was filed yesterday based on some information that was brought to our attention the day before yesterday.

I consulted with counsel in south Florida who's familiar with -- who strictly does -- deals with ethical issues and represents lawyers and judges, as did co-counsel about the conflict.

And we believe it's one that unfortunately cannot be resolved and remains. And, therefore, the defense team is requesting to step aside and withdraw from the case.

1 THE COURT: Most of the time the lawyers
2 will --

3 MR. BRUNVAND: I'm sorry?

4 THE COURT: Most of the time the lawyers
5 will call the Bar to get an advisory opinion.

6 MR. BRUNVAND: Sure. Sure. But my
7 thought is, the Bar is one option. Another
8 option is to contact lawyers who represent
9 lawyers who deal with ethical issues and Bar
10 issues on a regular basis. So that's why I
11 chose to reach out to him.

12 Quite frankly, I don't know that I really
13 needed to reach out to anyone based on my
14 experience, having dealt with similar issues in
15 the past.

16 It's very apparent to me that there is a
17 conflict, and that continued representation by
18 this defense team would not be appropriate.

19 THE COURT: All right. Well, is this the
20 kind of conflict that is going to occur if he
21 has a future lawyer? Is it going to keep
22 occurring?

23 MR. BRUNVAND: I don't know the answer to
24 that, your Honor.

25 THE COURT: All right. What says the

1 State?

2 MR. VONDERHEIDE: Well, your Honor, for
3 the motion to continue, we started doing a
4 little deeper dive in Mr. -- I'm sorry --
5 Dr. Kosowski's video visitation, jail phone
6 calls.

7 And what we observed there was a trend.
8 And I was going to bring it up in court. As a
9 result of me bringing it up in court, I thought
10 Mr. Brunvand and Dr. Kosowski should have an
11 opportunity to review that. So we discovered
12 it over to them, downloaded the videos and
13 submitted it to the defense.

14 It was our reading of those conversations
15 with Dr. Kosowski as having with his mother
16 that his ultimate goal was to fire Mr.
17 Brunvand, subsequent to the motion to suppress,
18 and then engage in litigation for a return of
19 some sort of fees or money.

20 I was going to bring that up in my
21 argument against the motion to continue just to
22 demonstrate that it appears that Dr. Kosowski
23 would be engaged in some sort of delaying
24 tactics as it relates to this trial.

25 It sort of morphed into something else.

1 Because as a result of me seeing it and
2 discovering it, it was reviewed by defense
3 counsel.

4 The sum and substance of it, we do have AI
5 generated transcripts of it. I believe we
6 supplied those to the defense. But we also
7 gave them the raw material, the video visits
8 that Dr. Kosowski had with his mother.

9 In there, he is explaining how he did
10 desire to sue Mr. Brunvand and how he did
11 desire to fire Mr. Brunvand, in particular.
12 The rest of the defense team I don't believe
13 was mentioned.

14 And I can't speak to what's happening on
15 that end. I just gave over the videos and gave
16 over the material.

17 We have been -- I sent out a save-the-date
18 subpoena, I think, in July of 2024 to
19 a majority -- to -- and I believe most of the
20 State's witnesses had service. I only got a
21 few kickbacks.

22 I haven't begun working the phones in
23 earnest because this has kind of delayed the
24 preparation for the case, the motion to
25 continue being on the table, and now this

1 motion to withdraw. So that's what I will say.

2 I don't know where we stand now. There
3 was a phone call video visit made last night by
4 Dr. Kosowski to his mother. He said he was
5 going to keep things amicable.

6 And there was also mention that he wished
7 to represent himself. So I think what we have
8 here today is a couple of inquiries.

9 First is whether defense counsel will be
10 allowed to withdraw from the case.

11 Two, whether Dr. Kosowski even wants to
12 continue with his defense team or whether he
13 wants to fire his defense team.

14 And I think the third issue before we
15 address anything else is whether Dr. Kosowski
16 wants to represent himself with a Faretta
17 inquiry. That's my concerns from having
18 reviewed his video visitation.

19 That's all I have for this particular
20 motion.

21 THE COURT: All right. Anything else you
22 want to say before I ask him about a Faretta
23 hearing, Mr. Brunvand?

24 MR. BRUNVAND: The only other thing I
25 would say, your Honor, not including the

1 recording from last night, there's about 120
2 minutes worth of conversations between him and
3 his mother.

4 There are significant issues that are not
5 set forth in those recordings, but are related
6 to the recordings as it relates to potential
7 litigation between myself, my firm and from Dr.
8 Kosowski.

9 And there are other things that I'm not
10 comfortable discussing in open court. And I
11 quite frankly don't think the law requires that
12 I discuss it in open court.

13 So I don't believe that just an analysis
14 of the videos themselves resolves the issue of
15 the conflict.

16 THE COURT: Well, is it possible if you
17 two have a conversation, that the conflict can
18 be cured basically?

19 MR. BRUNVAND: I don't believe so, your
20 Honor.

21 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Kosowski, do
22 you want to say anything about all this?

23 THE DEFENDANT: Huh-uh.

24 THE COURT: No, you don't want to say
25 anything?

1 THE DEFENDANT: Huh-uh.

2 THE COURT: All right. Can you answer out
3 loud? Do you want to say anything?

4 THE DEFENDANT: I do not want to answer.

5 THE COURT: All right. Well, do you want
6 to represent yourself in this case?

7 THE DEFENDANT: I do not want to answer.

8 THE COURT: All right. And do you have a
9 position on Mr. Brunvand's motion to withdraw?

10 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. I never fired him.

11 THE COURT: So you haven't fired him and
12 you don't want to fire him; is that correct?

13 THE DEFENDANT: I'm surprised. I've never
14 even seen this motion. This is a complete
15 surprise to me, why we're here this morning.
16 So --

17 MR. BRUNVAND: They were electronically
18 shared yesterday afternoon.

19 THE COURT: All right. Do you want to
20 take a look at it?

21 All right. So I think you said that you
22 discovered this yesterday, Mr. Brunvand?

23 MR. BRUNVAND: We started two days ago. I
24 tried to -- I scheduled a video visit yesterday
25 to see if we could have some discussions about

1 it.

2 I was advised that there would be no video
3 visit, and the visit would only be in person at
4 the jail. I'm not interested in doing that at
5 this stage, your Honor. I don't think it's
6 appropriate.

7 I think if there were any conversations to
8 be had, it could have been done via the video
9 visitation. And I can elaborate further in ex
10 parte in camera. But I don't believe that it
11 would be appropriate for me to elaborate beyond
12 that.

13 THE COURT: All right. Well, if you want
14 to do an in camera, I guess we can do that.

15 Anyone have an objection just me and
16 Mr. Brunvand go in the back and we discuss it
17 and come back?

18 MR. VONDERHEIDE: The State of Florida
19 does not have an objection.

20 THE COURT: Mr. Kosowski, do you?

21 THE DEFENDANT: Exactly what are you going
22 to be doing?

23 THE COURT: Well, he's going to tell me --
24 he's going to give me some information about
25 this alleged conflict. All right. Obviously,

1 all I've heard is about this video where you're
2 allegedly going to sue him.

3 I think that if that's all there is to it,
4 then perhaps the two of you can go in the back
5 and discuss this and figure out if that's
6 really what you want to do.

7 THE DEFENDANT: I think I would object to
8 you guys having an in camera. I think whatever
9 Mr. Bjorn Brunvand wants to -- however he wants
10 to supplement his motion, he can do it in open
11 court.

12 THE COURT: Well, are you going to waive
13 attorney-client privilege?

14 THE DEFENDANT: Sure.

15 THE COURT: You are?

16 THE DEFENDANT: Yeah. Go ahead.

17 THE COURT: Okay. So that means whatever
18 it is you've told him, he's going to tell the
19 Court. Are you sure you want to do that?

20 THE DEFENDANT: Let's do it.

21 MR. BRUNVAND: Your Honor, if I do that in
22 open court at this point, it's potentially
23 going to be detrimental to my client. It's
24 going to hurt his case. I think it's highly
25 inappropriate for me to do that.

1 And I am telling the Court as an officer
2 of the court, that we have evaluated that
3 there's a conflict. There's a lot of
4 additional information that goes into that
5 equation.

6 But for me to stand here in open court and
7 say things about my client that will not be
8 good on the public record, I think is
9 inappropriate. And I think it's something that
10 I'm not comfortable doing.

11 THE COURT: All right. Well, I mean it's
12 something that you have been dealing with for
13 the last couple of days. And you seem to say
14 that if you had a video discussion within the
15 last couple of days, all this may have been
16 rectified. So --

17 MR. BRUNVAND: I don't know that I said
18 that. I said that I was willing to try to have
19 a conversation yesterday.

20 THE COURT: Okay. Well --

21 MR. BRUNVAND: I can tell you that there's
22 certain things I'm not willing to say.

23 But I can tell you that there's
24 allegations of fraud on my part. There's an
25 allegation of fraud in the inducement and undue

1 duress -- duress in his initial signing the
2 contract.

3 There's allegations of the suggestion that
4 I have forged his signature on documents.

5 There is a -- there is a secured interest, a
6 secured fee, we've been advancing costs and not
7 paying for civil lawyers and what have you.

8 So there's a -- there is a balloon payment
9 that's due the end of this month. I've been
10 advised by his mother that -- that they're
11 going to fight that.

12 I've been listening to the recording where
13 it's being made very clear that he's
14 instructing his mother to make sure that I
15 don't ever get a penny, and that he's going to
16 ask for every dime back that he paid me.

17 Okay. And those are things that I should
18 say that I don't know that that's really going
19 to be detrimental. There are other things that
20 I'm not comfortable saying.

21 And this is not something I do lightly. I
22 mean, we've been preparing for trial. We've
23 been preparing very hard on this case. And I'm
24 not happy about it, but this is where we are.

25 And the law indicates that there are

1 certain things that I shouldn't be saying in
2 open court. And I'm just not comfortable doing
3 it, your Honor.

4 And I know everyone would like for this
5 trial to proceed as scheduled. Everyone would
6 like for us to be able to continue to represent
7 Dr. Kosowski.

8 I question whether Dr. Kosowski really
9 wants that in light of what I've seen and heard
10 and in light of his refusal to have this
11 meeting with me other than in person at the
12 jail yesterday.

13 THE COURT: Well --

14 MR. BRUNVAND: This is a death penalty
15 case.

16 THE COURT: Right.

17 MR. BRUNVAND: It's a very, very, very
18 significant problem, your Honor.

19 THE COURT: Right. I have to wonder if
20 this sort of thing is going to happen again.

21 MR. BRUNVAND: I understand. But that
22 doesn't change the fact --

23 THE COURT: Right.

24 MR. BRUNVAND: -- that we've established
25 that we have an ethical conflict that prevents

1 us from going forward.

2 It prevents us -- it prevents me from even
3 telling the Court all the details that give us
4 concern.

5 THE COURT: Right. And has he done
6 anything besides say what he's going to do to
7 his mother? I mean, has he actually done any
8 actions?

9 MR. BRUNVAND: As it relates to what, your
10 Honor?

11 THE COURT: As it relates to you and your
12 fees and suing you. Has he actually done
13 anything, or he's just saying these things in
14 phone calls to his mother? And I realize that
15 that's just one part of it.

16 MR. BRUNVAND: There are pieces of the
17 puzzle, your Honor, that have taken place
18 during private meetings between Dr. Kosowski
19 and defense counsel.

20 And everything, you know, comes into play.
21 So I'm not comfortable talking in specific
22 details as it relates to that.

23 THE COURT: All right. Well, you wanted
24 to have a video meeting with him, and then he
25 wouldn't do that. So I'm not saying anything

1 great is going to happen as a result. But why
2 don't you go back and talk to him right now and
3 see if this thing can be resolved. If it
4 can't, then come back and tell me.

5 MR. BRUNVAND: Okay. All right. That's
6 fine.

7 THE COURT: Okay. Anything else from the
8 State at this point?

9 MR. VONDERHEIDE: No, your Honor.

10 THE COURT: All right. So go ahead and do
11 that. Let's see if the conflict somehow can be
12 resolved because things can always be resolved.
13 It may take a little effort. If it can't, it
14 can't.

15 All right. Are you going to go back
16 there, too, Ms. Sellers?

17 MR. BRUNVAND: We'll go back in the
18 holding cell?

19 THE COURT: Very good. Yes.

20 **(RECESS.)**

21 THE COURT: All right. So everyone's here
22 on the Kosowski case, including Mr. Kosowski.

23 So any updates at all, Mr. Brunvand?

24 MR. BRUNVAND: There's no way to resolve
25 the ethical conflict.

1 THE COURT: All right. State, any ideas?

2 MR. VONDERHEIDE: I don't think anything
3 that's workable, so, no. I have no ideas how
4 to proceed.

5 Now, I will say this, Dr. Kosowski was
6 more than willing, I think, to waive any
7 attorney-client privilege that would be put
8 out.

9 Anything that would be adverse to himself,
10 attorney-client privilege, it sounds like he's
11 waiving in order to have this aired in open
12 court.

13 That may be an option for the Court. That
14 would logistically I think be pretty easy to
15 pull off. We have a court reporter.
16 Everybody's here.

17 I think the inquiry, though, as well, I
18 think we're heading towards a Faretta inquiry
19 if it goes in the direction where Mr. Brunvand
20 and the defense team is removed from the case.
21 I think that's where we're heading. We're
22 doing it this morning.

23 We have a trial on May 19th. It's 18 days
24 from today. And we're sort of proceeding in
25 that direction I think in a manner that's --

1 the trial is, in my opinion, ready to go.

2 THE COURT: Well, of course, the case law
3 is that we don't have a Faretta hearing unless
4 he unequivocally asks to represent himself.
5 And he's really unequivocally said he doesn't
6 want to represent himself.

7 So, obviously, I can't make him represent
8 himself under Faretta, even though it sure
9 makes things rather inconvenient for everybody.

10 So then, Mr. Kosowski, if I allow Mr.
11 Brunvand to withdraw, are you going to retain
12 another lawyer?

13 THE DEFENDANT: I don't know, your Honor.
14 This all comes as a complete surprise to me.
15 If I may suggest a remedy?

16 THE COURT: Excuse me?

17 THE DEFENDANT: May I suggest a remedy?

18 THE COURT: Okay.

19 THE DEFENDANT: May we continue this so
20 that I have time to prepare to see what the
21 allegations are and actually read through the
22 motion a little bit more carefully?

23 THE COURT: Well, there's not a whole lot
24 of specificity there at all intentionally,
25 because they're not supposed to reveal what the

1 conflict is because --

2 THE DEFENDANT: The conflict is money,
3 your Honor. I'm sorry for interrupting. The
4 conflict is money. Bjorn wants to get paid
5 basically. That's the conflict.

6 THE COURT: Okay.

7 THE DEFENDANT: So that's something I'm
8 willing to talk about. Okay?

9 THE COURT: All right. So go ahead and
10 talk about it then.

11 MR. BRUNVAND: Go ahead and talk about it.

12 THE DEFENDANT: Well, there was money
13 seized from my car. And Mr. Bjorn Brunvand
14 forced the sale of my home. And he
15 automatically assumed that he could take the
16 proceeds from the sale of the house and keep it
17 for himself for his legal fees.

18 I've never made that representation, nor
19 did I say that he can keep the money that was
20 seized from my car for himself for his legal
21 fees.

22 And I'm asking him to give them back; to
23 actually send me an actual bill, because I
24 still have never even received the bill from
25 his office.

1 This is what this is about.

2 THE COURT: Well, I mean you have three
3 lawyers -- well, you have four lawyers at
4 least, right?

5 MR. BRUNVAND: There's been five lawyers
6 working on the case. Now there's four because
7 one left to join the Public Defender's Office,
8 and then a full office staff.

9 THE COURT: Right. And Ms. Ramos?

10 MR. BRUNVAND: Right.

11 THE COURT: And then you have Mr. Wise,
12 too, who isn't here today.

13 MR. BRUNVAND: That's correct.

14 THE COURT: But the three of you are here
15 today. And there's all kinds of depositions
16 and all kinds of work. I know they've been
17 putting in a ton of work. Obviously, it's a
18 contract between you and your lawyers. So --
19 but I'm hearing that there's more than just
20 that, right?

21 MR. BRUNVAND: That's correct.

22 THE COURT: So if I allow him to withdraw,
23 what's your plan after that? Are you going to
24 retain a different lawyer and are you going to
25 assume -- sue Mr. Brunvand?

1 THE DEFENDANT: Judge Bulone, I honestly
2 don't know what I'm going to do. This is all a
3 surprise to me.

4 THE CLERK: Uh-huh.

5 THE DEFENDANT: It was never my intention
6 to fire Bjorn.

7 And I would hope that -- I mean, just show
8 the video from last night. I mean, is it that
9 hard to queue up the video between my mom and
10 myself and show the thing in its entirety? I
11 mean, that should clear up everything, right?

12 THE COURT: Well, if I continue this for a
13 little while, is that going to make any
14 difference whatsoever?

15 MR. BRUNVAND: No, your Honor, it's not.

16 THE COURT: All right. And are you going
17 to waive confidentiality for the other issues?
18 I wouldn't recommend it.

19 THE DEFENDANT: I don't know what the
20 other issues are, sir.

21 THE COURT: All right.

22 THE DEFENDANT: So, no, unless they were
23 spelled out for me by Mr. Brunvand.

24 THE COURT: Well, didn't the two of you
25 speak about that in the back, or you didn't

1 really have a conversation about that?

2 THE DEFENDANT: No. It was just about
3 money, sir.

4 THE COURT: All right.

5 MR. BRUNVAND: And some other few choice
6 words, your Honor --

7 THE COURT: All right.

8 MR. BRUNVAND: -- as to who I am and what
9 I am --

10 THE COURT: All right.

11 MR. BRUNVAND: -- which deserved no
12 response, quite frankly.

13 THE COURT: Right. It did not merit a
14 response?

15 MR. BRUNVAND: That's correct.

16 THE COURT: Well, do you want to try and
17 go back again and talk about the other issues,
18 and then everyone be nice and polite? How
19 about that?

20 THE DEFENDANT: Well, again, may we have a
21 continuance?

22 THE COURT: You can go back and talk about
23 it now. I mean, what is going to happen
24 between now and another hearing?

25 THE DEFENDANT: Well, I would like to --

1 for example, if we -- elect to withdraw, I
2 would like to present a strategy or -- for the
3 other motions that we have today. So I guess I
4 would have to argue those myself.

5 THE COURT: Well, if he moves to withdraw
6 and I grant it, then you're not going to have
7 those things heard today.

8 THE DEFENDANT: Oh, I understand.

9 THE COURT: Right.

10 THE DEFENDANT: But that all goes into the
11 planning of all this, correct? I mean, I would
12 like to have those motions argued before you.
13 So I'm going to have to figure out whether to
14 get another attorney or do it myself or
15 something along those lines.

16 THE COURT: Uh-huh.

17 MR. BRUNVAND: And he'll be able to do
18 that on the 9th, if he chooses to do it on his
19 own, or he can hire a lawyer.

20 THE COURT: Yeah.

21 All right. Anything else from the State?

22 MR. VONDERHEIDE: The continuing it to the
23 9th, I don't know if that's the best option.

24 I don't know what's going to happen in the
25 interim period in the next eight days that's

1 going to provide more clarity in this
2 situation.

3 Also, just logistically, there's travel we
4 are arranging for witnesses. There are hotel
5 rooms we would be arranging for witnesses.

6 THE COURT: That's for the trial, not --

7 MR. VONDERHEIDE: For the trial.

8 THE COURT: -- and not for the motion on
9 the 9th?

10 MR. VONDERHEIDE: Not for the motions. We
11 haven't had any other motions filed other than
12 the motion to continue the hearing and the
13 motion for rehearing. Those are the only two
14 motions that have been filed.

15 MR. BRUNVAND: And to be clear, your
16 Honor, I am not asking to move the motion to
17 withdraw until the 9th. I believe that it's
18 been heard today, and it can be ruled on today,
19 your Honor.

20 THE COURT: All right. Well, I don't
21 think I really have much of a choice here. So
22 I'm going to grant the motion to withdraw.
23 We'll keep the hearing on for May the 9th at
24 1:30.

25 And then you decide if you want to

1 represent yourself or if you're going to retain
2 another lawyer.

3 If you retain another lawyer, you're not
4 going to do anything to create a situation like
5 what we have now. All right?

6 THE DEFENDANT: This is not my creation,
7 sir.

8 THE COURT: All right. Well, you're not
9 going to do that in the future. I'm not saying
10 it's your fault now. I don't know all of the
11 details of anything. And I'm really not
12 supposed to know. But it's not going to happen
13 again.

14 All right. So right now you're
15 representing yourself on the 9th. If you're
16 going to retain another lawyer, have your
17 lawyer here. All right. Otherwise we'll bring
18 you on over on the 9th at 1:30. All right.

19 And then your motion to withdraw is
20 granted. Okay?

21 MR. BRUNVAND: Thank you, your Honor.

22 MR. VONDERHEIDE: Your Honor, I believe
23 Dr. Kosowski mentioned that he wishes to argue
24 these other motions perhaps by himself.

25 If that were the case on May 9th, we would

1 have to have a Faretta inquiry prior to him
2 representing himself on these motions.

3 THE COURT: Right.

4 MR. VONDERHEIDE: I anticipate in the next
5 eight days, Dr. Kosowski will be proceeding as
6 if he is his own lawyer, as a pro se litigant,
7 and probably, I'm guessing, will be asking for
8 many things, filing many documents, these kind
9 of things.

10 So I think it would probably be prudent in
11 that eight-day period, if he's going to be
12 acting as his own attorney, that perhaps we
13 hold the Faretta inquiry now because I think
14 he's made mention that he may just represent
15 himself for these motions.

16 THE COURT: Well, again, he has to
17 unequivocally request to represent himself,
18 which he hasn't done. So I've told him I would
19 like an answer by May 9th if he's going to
20 represent himself or not.

21 So if he is going to represent himself,
22 then we'll do a Faretta hearing. If he is
23 going to retain another lawyer, then I asked
24 him to have his lawyer here on the 9th so we
25 can figure out what's going on with the case.

1 All right?

2 MR. VONDERHEIDE: Okay. So I anticipate
3 just from historical record and review of the
4 cases, plural, that Dr. Kosowski has been
5 involved in, including documents that have been
6 discovered by Dr. Kosowski, that in this
7 eight-day period, I anticipate that he will
8 probably be active -- actively litigating
9 issues on his own behalf.

10 In the interim period I just have concern,
11 given that this is a death penalty case, given
12 that it's a first degree murder, given that
13 it's set for trial on May 19th, the next eight
14 days are a valuable eight days for all parties,
15 including Dr. Kosowski if he is going to choose
16 to represent himself.

17 So I think it would be prudent to maybe
18 inquire again if he wants to represent himself.
19 And if the answer to that is yes, then I think
20 we should do the full Faretta inquiry today, to
21 have that done.

22 I just am guessing what's going to
23 happen -- the next eight days -- a lot of time
24 in those next eight days.

25 And I just anticipate a lot of things will

1 be crossing many E-portals for filing in that
2 interim period. And I would like to be clear
3 before I engage with those documents that are
4 written and e-filed, sort of the status we are
5 here today on May 1st, 2025.

6 THE COURT: Well, I can understand why you
7 may assume that he may end up representing
8 himself since he did that before in a civil
9 case, at least allegedly.

10 But I can't just guess that that's what's
11 going to happen. So I can ask him for one last
12 time.

13 Are you unequivocally at this point asking
14 to represent yourself?

15 THE DEFENDANT: No, sir.

16 THE COURT: All right. So May 9, let me
17 know if you want to represent yourself. If
18 you're going to retain another lawyer, you have
19 eight days. So get on the phone and start
20 calling lawyers and have him or her here on the
21 afternoon of May 9th. Okay?

22 All right. Thank you.

23 MR. VONDERHEIDE: Your Honor?

24 THE COURT: Yes.

25 MR. VONDERHEIDE: I'm sorry to keep

1 bringing everybody back.

2 I don't know if it would be prudent at
3 this time to make an inquiry as to Dr. Kosowski
4 whether the May 19th trial date is something
5 that he still desires to go forward with on
6 May 19th.

7 THE COURT: We'll deal with that on the
8 9th.

9 MR. VONDERHEIDE: Okay.

10 THE COURT: Because we don't know if he's
11 going to represent himself. We don't know if
12 he's going to hire a lawyer. And then it does
13 give you enough time to call people off.

14 MR. VONDERHEIDE: Sure.

15 THE COURT: I mean, it's not ideal to call
16 people off at all.

17 MR. VONDERHEIDE: I will not do that.

18 THE COURT: It's not ideal to call them
19 off with that short of notice. But at least
20 it's better than the day of trial, right?

21 MR. VONDERHEIDE: Right. My intention is
22 to proceed with trial on May 19th.

23 THE COURT: Right.

24 MR. VONDERHEIDE: So that's the posture
25 that I'm in.

1 THE COURT: Right. And that's the posture
2 everyone's in right now.

3 All right. Thank you.

4 THE DEFENDANT: Thank you.

5 THE COURT: All right.

6 **(PROCEEDINGS CONCLUDED.)**

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF FLORIDA)

COUNTY OF PINELLAS)

I, Robin Fraley, Registered Professional
Reporter, certify that I was authorized to and did
prepare the foregoing transcription of Tina McComb's
notes to the best of my ability.

DATED this 18th day of August, 2026.

S/ ROBIN FRALEY, RPR

Registered Professional Reporter