

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE
STATE OF FLORIDA IN AND FOR PINELLAS COUNTY

STATE OF FLORIDA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

CASE NO. 23-02935CF

TOMASZ KOSOWSKI,

Defendant.

_____ /

VIRTUAL DEPOSITION OF ERIC FORCADE, PCSO

DATE: January 9, 2025

TIME: 10:10 a.m.

PLACE: Various Remote Locations
Via Zoom Video Communications

REPORTER: KIMBERLY L. RENFROE, RPR
Stenographic Reporter

VIRTUAL
APPEARANCES:

NATHAN T. VONDERHEIDE, ESQUIRE
Assistant State Attorney
Post Office Box 17500
Clearwater, Florida 33762
For the State

AMANDA POWERS SELLERS, ESQUIRE
Amanda Powers Sellers, P.A.
6344 Roosevelt Boulevard
Clearwater, Florida 33760
For the Defendant

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1 DEPOSITION IN DISCOVERY

2 ERIC FORCADE, PCSO

3 Pursuant to notice duly given, the virtual
4 deposition of ERIC FORCADE, PCSO, called by the
5 Defendant in the above-styled cause, was taken by me, a
6 Notary Public in and for the State of Florida at Large,
7 at the time and place and in the virtual presence of
8 counsel enumerated on Page 2 hereof.

9 Thereupon, it was stipulated and agreed by and
10 between the attorneys for the respective parties, by and
11 with the consent of the said ERIC FORCADE, PCSO, that
12 signature to the said deposition be waived.

13 THE COURT REPORTER: Raise your right hand,
14 please.

15 Do you swear or affirm that the testimony
16 you're about to give in this cause will be the
17 truth, so help you God?

18 THE WITNESS: I do.

19 ERIC FORCADE, PCSO, having been first duly sworn
20 via Zoom Video Communications, upon interrogation in
21 discovery, testified as follows:

22 DIRECT EXAMINATION

23 BY MS. SELLERS:

24 Q. Good morning, Lieutenant. My name is
25 Amanda Sellers. I represent Mr. -- or Dr. Kosowski.

1 And I will be conducting the deposition this morning.
2 Mr. Brunvand may join us. He is in -- a -- a -- an
3 appointment this morning but he may join us in the
4 middle here. So we'll go ahead and get started.

5 Can you please state your full name?

6 A. Sure. It's Eric Lee Forcade, F-O-R-C-A-D-E.

7 Q. How are you employed?

8 A. I am a lieutenant with the Pinellas County
9 Sheriff's office.

10 Q. How long have you been a lieutenant?

11 A. Lieutenant -- I've been a lieutenant now for
12 five or six years; I've been with the sheriff's office
13 20 years.

14 Q. Okay.

15 As a lieutenant with the sheriff's office what are
16 your duties?

17 A. Well, I guess it depends on where I'm working
18 at. Currently, I'm working as the division commander
19 for the Forensics Division. During the time of this
20 incident I was the division commander for the AFIS
21 Division.

22 Q. As a division commander for the AFIS Division
23 what -- what are your responsibilities?

24 A. Just to kind of provide an overview and
25 certainly try to be that, I don't want to say buffer,

1 but a connection between the AFIS Division and the chain
2 of command and make sure that information is getting
3 relayed from the chain of command through the AFIS
4 Division and back and forth.

5 Q. Because you are -- well, are you supervising
6 that AFIS Division?

7 A. I was, but at the same time there was a
8 AFIS -- for the -- so the AFIS Division's got two
9 separate -- or multiple sections, one is the fingerprint
10 techs and one is the latent print examiners. As far as
11 this incident concerns, that involves the latent print
12 examiners and they have a supervisor in charge of them.
13 While I'm his supervisor, he does the direct supervision
14 over them.

15 Q. Okay. So as the supervisor over the
16 supervisor, what training and experience do you have in
17 order to be able to do that job?

18 A. And -- and that's why he's in that position.
19 Right? So he's the one actually verifying that they're
20 doing the -- the nuts and bolts of the job properly as
21 far as looking at prints and -- and -- and making those
22 IDs and everything with it. My job, like I said, was
23 more of a higher level, hey, I'm looking at budgets, I'm
24 looking at, you know, what we're doing as far as our
25 overtime, you know, scheduling, stuff like that, and

1 trying to coordinate all those positions between them,
2 super -- the fingerprint techs, and then, like I said,
3 the COC of mine.

4 Q. Do you have any training or experience in
5 direct analysis of fingerprints?

6 A. No.

7 Q. So if I were to ask you specifics on the case
8 of State of Florida versus Dr. Kosowski regarding the
9 analysis and results and even the collection of the
10 evidence and the samples, is that something that you
11 would be able to testify to?

12 A. Not at all.

13 Q. Okay. So that is very helpful.

14 Let me, then, just direct your attention to your
15 first point of involvement in this case.

16 A. Sure.

17 Q. What -- what -- how did you get involved in
18 this case?

19 A. Quite -- quite, honestly, I know I was in seat
20 when it was taking place, clearly, 'cause I -- I knew
21 all the -- the hubbub about it and it -- everybody as
22 far as, you know, bringing in evidence, everything with
23 that.

24 Unfortunately, once you're out of that division,
25 because it's so specialized, all the databases, all the

1 computer systems, everything that coincides with it
2 is -- is very, you know, particularly as far as who they
3 grant access to. So once I left that division I have no
4 access further to -- to any information inside of that.
5 I got with the supervisor of the latent print
6 examiners -- David Villanueva -- I asked him, I was
7 like: Hey, you can certainly see what was going on with
8 that. Am I anywhere, anything on that where I did
9 something, I documented something or anything? And he
10 looked for me and he says, no, I don't see you anywhere
11 in there.

12 So, again, certainly, I was in seat, but as far as
13 the -- the actual procedure as far as what was going on,
14 I -- I don't remember really being too much involved
15 with it. Again, hearing background noise but as far as
16 the particulars, I wouldn't even remotely want to
17 discuss that without having some kind of documentation
18 as far as what that was.

19 Q. Okay. So is it safe to state that you did not
20 document any reports in this case?

21 A. No, ma'am.

22 Q. And I noticed your name, and I believe it was
23 Bolton's report, making a phone call in and then
24 possibly someone making a phone call to you; do you
25 remember those phone calls?

1 A. Yeah, he was just basically saying -- and,
2 again, this -- this is going purely off of memory. It
3 was something about he was just seeing what our -- what
4 our status was of the prints, if we had anything. I
5 kind of let him know where we were at at that status.
6 And then I -- I'm trying to think; again, 'cause this is
7 all going based off of memory. I think that was pretty
8 much the gist of it.

9 Again, if his report says something different, I --
10 I couldn't tell you because I -- I didn't document it.
11 I just know that I -- I do remember somebody from their
12 department contacting us like, hey, we're just trying to
13 figure out like where you guys are at, this is certainly
14 a rush case, do you guys have anything for us. But
15 beyond that I don't remember.

16 Q. And once the information is gathered,
17 analyzed, was it then sent to you to do anything with
18 AFIS?

19 A. No. Like I said, that's going to be as far as
20 all that goes, that would have been the supervisor,
21 Villanueva who would have handled anything with that.

22 Q. Okay.

23 If I may just have a moment to look through, make
24 sure there's no other notes I have here on you.

25 So when you say you don't have access to data does

1 that mean you wouldn't have access to any of the reports
2 that were done in this case?

3 A. No. Because we have two different -- 'cause
4 there's -- there's different databases that are -- that
5 are involved as far as our report writing goes. You
6 know, for us, internally, with the sheriff's office, if
7 we do any reports on an actual case those go into our
8 ACISS system, which is the database that just everybody
9 uses to write like your general reports as far as, hey,
10 I showed up, I did this, and this is what that consisted
11 of.

12 As far as latent print examiners go, they've got
13 yet another reporting system they've got that's part of
14 MIDEO, which is where they electronically document
15 everything that involves them looking at the actual
16 fingerprints or looking at the latents and then try to
17 make some kind of determination on that. So they
18 document all that in MIDEO. So that is specific to them
19 and that division, so, again, I don't have any access to
20 that at all. And I don't -- I definitely didn't do
21 anything in ACISS.

22 Q. Okay. And does anything stand out to you from
23 your conversations and memory regarding this case that
24 you would be able to testify to in trial or otherwise?

25 A. No, ma'am. Like I said, I know I was in seat.

1 Obviously, there was a lot going on during that time
2 with -- with it -- with it happening, but as far as any
3 particulars, I couldn't tell you anything about it.

4 Q. Okay.

5 MS. SELLERS: That is all I have.

6 Mr. Vonderheide?

7 MR. VONDERHEIDE: I don't have any questions.

8 Thank you, sir.

9 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

10 MS. SELLERS: Would you like to read or waive?

11 THE WITNESS: No, I'll waive.

12

13 (THEREUPON, the virtual deposition concluded
14 at 10:18.)

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CERTIFICATE OF OATH

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF PINELLAS

I, the undersigned authority, certify that
ERIC FORCADE, PCSO personally appeared before me via
Zoom Video Communications and was duly sworn on
January 9, 2025.

Witness my hand and official seal this
31st day of January, 2025.



Kimberly L. Renfro
KIMBERLY L. RENFROE, RPR

Notary Public, State of Florida
Commission No.: HH 80650
Expiration Date: 1/31/25

1 REPORTER'S DEPOSITION CERTIFICATE

2 STATE OF FLORIDA

3 COUNTY OF PINELLAS

4 I, Kimberly L. Renfroe, Registered Professional
5 Reporter, certify that I was authorized to and did
6 stenographically report the virtual deposition of ERIC
7 FORCADE, PCSO; that a review of the transcript was not
8 requested; and that the transcript is a true and
9 complete record of my stenographic notes.

10 I further certify that I am not a relative,
11 employee, attorney, or counsel of any of the parties,
12 nor am I a relative or employee of any of the parties'
13 attorney or counsel connected with this action, nor am I
14 financially interested in the action.

15 Dated this 31st day of January, 2025.

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17 
18 _____
KIMBERLY L. RENFROE, RPR
19 Stenographic Reporter
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23 (Transcript ordered by Bjorn E. Brunvand, Esquire,
24 on January 9, 2025.