1	COURT OF APPEALS
2	STATE OF NEW YORK
3	PEOPLE,
4	Respondent,
5	-against-
6	CODIE HAYWARD, NO. 83 Appellant.
7 8	20 Eagle Stree Albany, New Yor
9	September 12, 2026 Before:
10	CHIEF JUDGE ROWAN D. WILSON
11	ASSOCIATE JUDGE JENNY RIVERA ASSOCIATE JUDGE MICHAEL J. GARCIA ASSOCIATE JUDGE MADELINE SINGAS
12	ASSOCIATE JUDGE MADELINE SINGAS  ASSOCIATE JUDGE ANTHONY CANNATARO  ASSOCIATE JUDGE SHIRLEY TROUTMAN
13	ASSOCIATE JUDGE CAITLIN J. HALLIGAN
14	Appearances:  KRISTIN A. BLUVAS, ESQ.
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1	CHIEF JUDGE WILSON: Next matter on the calendar
2	is People v. Codie Hayward.
3	MS. BLUVAS: I'd like to reserve three minutes
4	for rebuttal, please?
5	CHIEF JUDGE WILSON: Yes.
6	MS. BLUVAS: Good afternoon, Your Honors. May it
7	please the court. Kristin Bluvas from the Rural Law
8	Center, on behalf of the defendant, Codie Hayward.
9	I'd like to first start by talking about the
10	history of no-knock warrants and what they authorize the
11	government to do.
12	JUDGE RIVERA: Before you get to that on or
13	that issue. Can you address whether the that issue
14	that divided the the majority and the dissent in the
15	Appellate Division below, is that a mixed question of law
16	and fact? Is that a a different factual
17	interpretation of the record that we're not going to be
18	able to address?
19	MS. BLUVAS: I I would argue that this
20	court can find ineffective assistance as a matter of law,
21	and they can decide this issue as it has been presented to
22	them.
23	CHIEF JUDGE WILSON: But to do that
24	JUDGE HALLIGAN: And what's
25	CHIEF JUDGE WILSON: would we have to



determine that there was no support for the majority's view 1 2 that this was not a no-knock warrant? Not - - - not a - -3 - that they didn't break the door down. 4 MS. BLUVAS: You asked what was their - - -5 CHIEF JUDGE WILSON: Let - - - let me reask. 6 had too many negatives in that question. 7 MS. BLUVAS: Yes. Sorry. 8 CHIEF JUDGE WILSON: To be able to disagree with 9 the Appellate Division majority, which said essentially, 10 they didn't break the door down, would we have to conclude that there is no evidence of that nature in the record? 11 12 MS. BLUVAS: I think that to be able to disagree 13 with them, you would have to conclude that that was incredible as a matter of law. That - - - that, given this 14 15 record, you know that the - - - there was enough given the 16 - - - the police report, given the police testimony, that 17 it was incredible, as a matter of law, to conclude that a

JUDGE GARCIA: Is that particularly difficult for us to do here because it's unpreserved, so the People didn't litigate it? So if you had raised this issue in the suppression court, we'd have a much better record.

no-knock warrant did not occur.

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MS. BLUVAS: It is difficult, I do agree with you. However, and - - - and then, if we step back at the context that's raised in - - - in the context of



1	ineffective assistance of counsel, the reason that we don'
2	have a sufficient record, I argue, is because counsel did
3	not you know, see this very clear issue that the
4	warrant was exceeded in the scope.
5	JUDGE TROUTMAN: Is this a single-issue error
6	with respect to counsel?
7	MS. BLUVAS: I would argue that it is because it
8	is it would be dispositive, the the
9	JUDGE TROUTMAN: And was the law clear with
10	respect to the issue itself and and what was
11	the law clear that if it was violated, what the
12	consequences were?
13	MS. BLUVAS: So this court has not considered
14	that issue. But I think you know, even though the
15	Supreme Court in Hudson has said that it's not you
16	know, suppression isn't always required. It has also said
17	the opposite, that, you know, in federal drug raids it's -

the opposite, that, you know, in federal drug raids it's -

JUDGE TROUTMAN: It's so they said it's - - it's not always required. So that's the floor, and we haven't decided that it does require suppression. So how can that be enough here to get the relief you're seeking?

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MS. BLUVAS: Well, I - - - I would argue that the - - - the - - - that counsel's failure to raise that is what - - - is what was the issue. Like, this was not - - -



you know, challenging the scope of a warrant is very

routine defense practice. There was no reason for them not

to - - 
JUDGE SINGAS: But maybe he read Hudson and

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JUDGE SINGAS: But maybe he read Hudson and decided, he or she, that it wasn't worth raising. And are we to find that based on Supreme Court precedent, a decision like that is ineffective?

MS. BLUVAS: I think, you - - - you have Hudson, but you also have - - - you know, Richards v. Wisconsin, that - - - that makes the opposite point, that - - - that there is no per se rule on - - -

JUDGE CANNATARO: But doesn't the issue have to be clear cut and dispositive? Wouldn't the success of that motion have to be basically a foregone conclusion?

MS. BLUVAS: I don't think we have to prove that

- - - that it would have - - - that he would have won that.

But I think we have to show you that there was no
objectively reasonable strategy to not challenge the
warrant. There was no negatives to the defendant for him
challenging the warrant.

JUDGE HALLIGAN: In addition to Hudson, don't you have to deal with Rodriguez, which suggests that for technical violations - - - I know that was a nighttime issue - - but that suppression is inappropriate. So I - - I think we would have to conclude that even though we

1	might view a nighttime constraint as technical, that we
2	wouldn't view knock versus no-knock, and and maybe in
3	a context where a no-knock warrant would have been
4	available given the circumstances. So what do you do about
5	Rodriguez?
6	MS. BLUVAS: You know what? I think they are
7	distinguishable. This is not a technical violation, and
8	it's something you can look at in Hudson.
9	JUDGE HALLIGAN: But but is it clear cut?
10	To go back to Judge Cannataro's question about about
11	the the standard here for ineffective assistance, how
12	would we find it's it's clear cut in light of

Rodriguez? That's what I'm grappling with.

MS. BLUVAS: I think you could find that it - - - that it was - - it was a clear-cut issue to challenge the scope of the warrant at a minimum. That would be - - - that it was defective performance as a matter of law.

JUDGE TROUTMAN: So - - - so are you suggesting that regardless of the state of the law, it was a claim that any competent lawyer would simply raise? Is - - - is that what you're arguing?

MS. BLUVAS: I'm arguing - - - I'm arguing that - - you know, defense counsel should have raised this issue; it is routine practice. If you - - - looking at the omnibus motion, it was clearly done from a template. You

1 know, it references other defendants' crimes. 2 So again, regardless of the JUDGE TROUTMAN: 3 state of the law, it's something that routinely a competent 4 lawyer would have simply raised? 5 MS. BLUVAS: Correct. Yes. 6 JUDGE RIVERA: Well, but even when you're raising 7 sort of routinely, this is something that - - - that you 8 would file a motion on. It can't be frivolous. You have 9 to have legal basis for even a routine application. 10 agree with me there? 11 MS. BLUVAS: Correct. 12 JUDGE RIVERA: Okay. 13 MS. BLUVAS: But there was - - -14 So why is it not frivolous? JUDGE RIVERA: Is it 15 because it's novel under the State Constitution? 16 haven't resolved that question. The questions you're being 17 asked make it clear we haven't resolved it. 18 MS. BLUVAS: Correct. It is novel, but it is 19 also - - - you know, not decided at the federal level. 20 It's - - - there's no per se rule either way. It - - - you 2.1 know, it would get the defendant to - - - to evaluating the 2.2 reasonableness - -23 JUDGE RIVERA: Let's say we disagree with your



argument here and we disagree with the dissenters.

this is really about the State Constitution?

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MS. BLUVAS: Then - - - then what is your question? I'm sorry.

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JUDGE RIVERA: Well, I - - - in a more, I guess, direct way, is a counsel ineffective if they fail to raise what is obviously a novel claim? One, novel in that sense. It has not been resolved by the Court of Appeals that would be dispositive in the case, or at least, would severely weaken the prosecution?

MS. BLUVAS: I don't - - - I do think that counsel is defective in this case, it wouldn't always be defective for raising a novel issue. While the - - - the - - - the search discussion is something that may be up for dispute. The - - - you know, challenging the scope of a warrant is not something that's up for dispute.

JUDGE SINGAS: Can you just clarify what you mean by that, the scope of the warrant?

MS. BLUVAS: Well, their authority was - - - was granted by the warrant and the - - - the - - - the - - - their authority was not given to the extent to conduct a no-knock raid on this - - - this defendant's apartments.

And we don't know what the - - - the magistrate would have done if this was requested. It was - - - you know, a - - - a multilevel apartment building. While there were drugs that - - - you know, could readily be destroyed, there could have been many other considerations. And by not

putting that before the magistrate, I would argue that we 1 2 have to look at the - - - the - - - the search at the point 3 of when it was conducted. And in this case, it's 4 unreasonable - - -5 JUDGE SINGAS: And - - - and do you think this 6 record is clear about what happened upon entry or right 7 before entry, for us to come to a determination? 8 MS. BLUVAS: I do think there is enough on this 9 record. While there could be more, I think you have the 10 officer testimony. I think the after-action report - - -11 you know - - - from the emergency response team is very 12 detailed. It's very clear as to what the officers did 13 prior to the entry, how they moved themselves into place 14 secretly, how they - - - you know, the different equipment 15 that they brought with them. You know, twenty-three 16 officers, seventeen handguns - - -17 JUDGE RIVERA: But all - - - they could have done 18 all of that and still, before they touch the door, have 19 said police, right? Or whatever they're going to say. 20 Warn that law enforcement is - - - is going to come in if 21 you don't open this door. 2.2 MS. BLUVAS: I - - - I think it would be 23 illogical to conclude that they - - -24 JUDGE RIVERA: It would be what? I'm sorry.



Illogical - -

MS. BLUVAS:

1	JUDGE RIVERA: Illogical?
2	MS. BLUVAS: to conclude that if they
3	they gave that detailed report of what they did, to
4	to omit that information. You know, there were ther
5	was quotes of what they entered what they stated as
6	they entered.
7	JUDGE RIVERA: Whose report was that?
8	MS. BLUVAS: That was it was an after-
9	action report by the police department that's prepared
10	routinely, you know, as as a matter of
11	JUDGE RIVERA: I guess, I'm asking because I kno
12	there was an issue raised as to whether or not all the
13	officers would have been in a position to know or to have
14	heard whether an appropriate warning was given?
15	MS. BLUVAS: And that report informs on that
16	issue. It explains which officers entered first, which
17	were in the stack behind the batter which conducted
18	the battering ram, which held the shield
19	JUDGE RIVERA: And how does that address whether
20	or not, indeed, there was a prior warning?
21	MS. BLUVAS: How does
22	JUDGE RIVERA: Knowing the order of those who
23	enter? Knowing who's carrying whatever they're carrying?
24	MS. BLUVAS: Right. Those officers the
25	officers that we primarily rely on, Pendrick and Blowers,



were the first officers to enter. You know, they are going to have the first impressions. They were - - - you know, the ones that were yelling. And Ofc. Pendrick, as he entered, yelled, police, search warrant. You know, if he had said that before, he was the one designated to do that, that - - that would be in the report, I would argue.

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I'd like to just touch briefly on what the remedy in this case is. And that I think that the remedy is suppression. You know, if this court can find, as a matter of law, that counsel's performance was defective, that suppression can be ordered. You know, if - - - while I think there still is enough, we also would request that this could be sent back to county court for a hearing because of the colorable claim of a violation by the defendant or on behalf of the defendant.

JUDGE RIVERA: Let's say we agreed with you.

Would - - - would - - - would the prosecution have the opportunity to now establish that, indeed, there was a warning in advance? That this was not a no-knock search and seizure?

MS. BLUVAS: Well, the - - -

JUDGE RIVERA: A warrant?

MS. BLUVAS: - - - the officers could be called back and - - - and - - - and asked that directly. You know, I don't know what they would say. You know, that



wasn't actually asked of them directly. It could be contradicted by the report that that they issued, and there would be credibility issues as to why that wasn't included in that report. But we don't know. Thank you.

CHIEF JUDGE WILSON: Thank you.

MS. RAHILLY STELLER: May it please the court.

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MS. RAHILLY STELLER: May it please the court.

My name is Bridget Rahilly Steller. I'm an attorney with
the New York Prosecutor's Training Institute, here as of
counsel to Fulton County District Attorney Michael Poland.

JUDGE SINGAS: Can you address that issue about the state of the record and if we have enough information in front of us about the nature of the no-knock or the announcement, and particularly that report; does that shed any light?

MS. RAHILLY STELLER: Your Honor, I don't think the record is sufficient for anything. And I have a couple of issues here. First of all, if you look at CPL 710.60, you're supposed to make a suppression motion prior to trial, or you're supposed to put all your grounds in your suppression motion, and that's the exclusive means of deciding that motion under - - it's one of the - - it's the first CPL 710.60 refers to CPL 710.20. And the first thing in 710.20 is a personal property - - - a suppression of personal property.

So this issue should have been raised - - - if it



was going to be raised, should have been raised in the 1 2 omnibus motion or the motion to suppress. That's where you 3 would have had a hearing on was there - - -4 JUDGE RIVERA: That - - - that - - - but that's 5 That counsel - - - that the trial counsel counsel's point. 6 - - - excuse me - - - was ineffective. So what happens 7 when you have that scenario? 8 MS. RAHILLY STELLER: I don't think you can say 9 this attorney is ineffective based on this record because 10 you don't know what he knew at the time he made the motion. 11 And if the only time he hears about this delayed or maybe 12 simultaneous announcement is during trial, the issues 13 you're deciding at trial are, is there sufficient evidence that this defendant - - -14 15 JUDGE TROUTMAN: Was the law clear? 16 MS. RAHILLY STELLER: Excuse me? 17 JUDGE HALLIGAN: Wouldn't you expect - - - when 18 you look at both the testimony and the after-action report, 19 that if in fact, one of the officers had knocked and 20 announced, that they would have indicated that in the 2.1 course of their testimony? It's pretty - - -2.2 MS. RAHILLY STELLER: I think that -23 JUDGE HALLIGAN: It's pretty thorough and 24 detailed. Why wouldn't that - - - not be in there? 25 MS. RAHILLY STELLER: Well, number one, I don't



know how you get an after-action report in there without going through who wrote it and what their basis of knowledge is.

JUDGE HALLIGAN: Okay. But - - - but in terms of the recounting of what happened.

MS. RAHILLY STELLER: Go to the two officers who

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MS. RAHILLY STELLER: Go to the two officers who did testify. Sgt. Pendrick says he was supposed to be the first person on the battering ram. And he says that as they went through, they announced police. But then he also says - - -

JUDGE HALLIGAN: So - - - right. And so just to stay on that for a minute, he does say that. And so it seems to me that if he had also announced that he was there before he went in with the ram, that he would have said that in the course of his testimony.

MS. RAHILLY STELLER: But he was never asked that question. And what becomes even more important is, I think if you look at -- I think it's Al10 in the record, he testified, "As we approached the rear apartment door of 3W, another officer had breached the door. And the door popped open." So he wasn't the guy who was going in first. Somebody else was ahead of him. So this was never completely vetted on this record.

JUDGE RIVERA: So - - so are you suggesting that even - - assuming for one moment that because he



didn't put it in the report and doesn't testify to it, that 1 2 that he didn't say it? That because from another door 3 someone else is in front of him, that that person may have 4 issued the warning? Is that - - - or am I 5 misunderstanding? 6 MS. RAHILLY STELLER: Anybody could have - -JUDGE RIVERA: And - - - and - - -7 8 MS. RAHILLY STELLER: - - - issued the warning. 9 JUDGE RIVERA: Okav. 10 MS. RAHILLY STELLER: And also you're talking 11 about - - - even if you listen - - - even if you look at 12 Sqt. Pendrick's testimony, it's - - - it's almost 13 simultaneous. And if you look at - - - even with a - - -14 even if you don't have the no-knock authorization, you have 15 to knock before you enter and announce. But there's no 16 specification about how long you have to wait before you 17 break the door down. It could be ten seconds. It could be 18 five seconds. It could be thirty seconds. It could be

So there's no specific requirement as to how long you have to wait. So you can't really tell from this record because they're talking about it happening at once.

JUDGE TROUTMAN: With respect to the claim, assume for the sake of argument - - -  $\!\!\!$ 

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twenty minutes.

MS. RAHILLY STELLER: Yes, Judge.



1	JUDGE TROUTMAN: that there is a record to
2	say that the no-knock was violated, was the law clear that
3	suppression would be granted?
4	MS. RAHILLY STELLER: No, Your Honor. And that
5	would be my second point. That in order for you to have a
6	valid argument that that the defense attorney was
7	ineffective, it seems to me that there has to be a clear
8	law that any reasonable defense attorney would have raised
9	this issue.
10	And if you look at the state of the law
11	JUDGE RIVERA: So so you're so you're
12	saying if a lawyer is aware of a novel issue not resolved
13	by this court and they choose not to raise it
14	MS. RAHILLY STELLER: Yes.
15	JUDGE RIVERA: that any other defense
16	lawyer would have raised, they're not ineffective because
17	it's novel?
18	MS. RAHILLY STELLER: Well, I think it's
19	it's novel, but I I don't think you can say here that
20	any other defense attorney would have would have
21	raised this issue. But again
22	JUDGE RIVERA: Why not? Why not?
23	Would have been the $ -$ if $ -$ if they would have won
24	on the issue and gotten the remedy, all that evidence is
25	suppressed. Then you left, I I can believe you



1	can correct me you're left with the CI's statement
2	and that's it.
3	MS. RAHILLY STELLER: But if you look at it and
4	you you see number one, I go back to what did
5	the attorney know when he made his suppression motion?
6	Then you make strategic decisions. And if he didn't know
7	or if he knew something else that it had in fact happened,
8	he wouldn't be making this motion.
9	JUDGE RIVERA: No, no. But it was a different
10	hypothetical. It it's
11	MS. RAHILLY STELLER: Okay.
12	JUDGE RIVERA: I I thought Judge
13	Troutman had said, let's assume for one moment that there'
14	no ambiguity in the record, there's no uncertainty, that's
15	not what the dispute is. Everyone agrees, they did not
16	give the warning upfront. Okay?
17	MS. RAHILLY STELLER: Okay.
18	JUDGE RIVERA: All right.
19	MS. RAHILLY STELLER: I I still -
20	JUDGE RIVERA: And and everyone here, of
21	course, agrees that the lawyer never raised such a claim.
22	MS. RAHILLY STELLER: I still think that since
23	the issue had never been decided by this court or by any o
24	the intermediate
25	JUDGE RIVERA: But that's the point.



1	MS. RAHILLY STELLER: appellate courts in
2	the State
3	JUDGE RIVERA: That's the point. It's not
4	foreclosed because it's a novel issue under the State
5	Constitution.
6	MS. RAHILLY STELLER: Under the State
7	Constitution, yes. But since the you have the
8	Supreme Court decision in there and no other courts in this
9	in this state at least when I looked, I
10	couldn't find anything or another court in this state
11	had adopted or rejected that proposal, I think that the
12	attorneys would not be required to raise that.
13	And again, it's a strategic decision on the part
14	of the attorney. And I think if he thought he had a better
15	argument and I think he could have thought he had a
16	better argument here, because he's arguing that the whole
17	thing should have been suppressed. On the other hand
18	JUDGE RIVERA: Are they mutually exclusive?
19	MS. RAHILLY STELLER: Excuse me?
20	JUDGE RIVERA: Are the arguments mutually
21	exclusive?
22	MS. RAHILLY STELLER: He did. But the other side
23	of that
24	JUDGE RIVERA: No, no, no. Are the arguments



mutually exclusive? You said he had a better argument.

What - - - would it have undermined his argument?

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MS. RAHILLY STELLER: Well, that may have been the better argument. But the other thing we don't know about is, is he concerned about if he does raise this argument, are we going to have a standing objection and then he's going to have to litigate standing. Because the evidence also tended to indicate that the defendant claimed his apartment was not this one, it was the one across the hall. So you would have had to worry about, are you going to win on the standing point?

So I think it's - - - it's legitimate for an attorney to look at what he or she knows at the time they're making their motions, at the time they're litigating something, and you - - - you can't tell from this record what the attorney did or didn't know. But I also believe that no attorney in this state is going to be required, in order to be competent, to raise a novel issue.

JUDGE RIVERA: Well, it doesn't have to be competent. It's whether or not the defendant is denied meaningful representation given the error if it is an error.

MS. RAHILLY STELLER: And I - - - I'm - - - what I'm saying is I don't believe it's an error when it is not any kind of a settled issue. And I also think that if it were a settled issue, we'd be seeing this argued a lot more

in this state. Or if it was something that somebody thought they would have a chance of winning on, it would be heavily argued.

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JUDGE RIVERA: One - - - one would hope law enforcement is not, as a matter of course, violating the statute and engaging in these no-knock warrants. One would hope.

MS. RAHILLY STELLER: I mean, I understand that - that this is a problem, but on this record, you can't
even tell that. And if you look at - - - there's two
police officers who testified here. Pendrick, who was the
first one. Ofc. Blowers, when he's asked how did you enter
apartment 3W, he says I don't know. And then he's - - - he
has to be refocused. He's also the one who testifies that
after they got in there, there were three people in the
apartment when we know there were four because there were
four arrests. So this is all credibility issues also
involved here.

But I would suggest to you that this is not properly before you. It wasn't preserved. And there's no showing that this attorney did not provide meaningful representation.

Does the court have any other questions you would like me to address?

CHIEF JUDGE WILSON: No, thank you.



3 CHIEF JUDGE WILSON: Thank you. 4 MS. BLUVAS: Just quickly in - - - in rebuttal. 5 We do know when counsel got the report that would have made 6 this clear. It was pre-discovery reform, so it was 7 disclosed as Rosario - - - you know - - - immediately 8 before trial. It was redacted, so counsel didn't get a 9 copy until the day of jury selection. And I submit that it 10 was ineffective for him not to at that time, move to reopen 11 the Mapp hearing when the issue became very apparent on the 12 record. 13 The - - - you know, in response to the officer's 14 testimony, while Ofc. Pendrick was the second one in - - -15 you know, the person that breached the door is first and 16 popped the door open, but he was the first one in the stack 17 of officers behind the shield. So he was the first to 18 observe the - - -19 JUDGE RIVERA: Do you want to take a moment to 20 address the Molineux issue? 2.1 Yes. And I would like to take a MS. BLUVAS: 2.2 moment to address the Molineux issue because that was a 23 preserved issue, so it's a much - - - it's a cleaner issue for the court to address. 24 25 This prior sale, I think county court was correct

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MS. RAHILLY STELLER: Okay. Thank you very much.

We'd ask that the - - - you affirm the Third Department.



in their original discussion of excluding it. You know, the sale was simultaneous. It could have been indicted at the same time. It could have been before the court. He knew its purpose was to show propensity. And the best evidence of the prejudice to the defendant, is that the jury acquitted him of the charges for the cocaine which was found in the same room as him with the drug paraphernalia, you know, and convicted on the heroin which was in a back bedroom - - you know, and the possession was the real issue at trial.

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So this Molineux evidence was not - - - you know, relevant to his possession of that heroin. It was only - - - you know, highly prejudicial, and it was - - - the only purpose it was introduced, I argue, was for propensity that he - - he sold - - - sold heroin.

JUDGE SINGAS: So are you arguing that the trial court abused his or her discretion?

MS. BLUVAS: The - - - I think that the - - that it was an abuse of discretion to reverse their
decision. Because originally, they - - - they decided that
the - - - that they were precluded from using that and they
could only elicit - - - you know, an ongoing drug
investigation was occurring at the residence and that's how
the search warrant was obtained.

JUDGE CANNATARO: You mean the - - - the trial



1	court reversed its own decision?
2	MS. BLUVAS: Reversed its own decision, correct
3	If there's no other questions on that, I would
4	rest on my briefs and ask the court to reverse.
5	CHIEF JUDGE WILSON: Thank you.
6	(Court is adjourned)
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## CERTIFICATION

I, Chrishanda Sassman-Reynolds, certify that the foregoing transcript of proceedings in the Court of Appeals of People v. Codie Hayward, No. 83 was prepared using the required transcription equipment and is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

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