

DOCKET NUMBERS: : SUPERIOR COURT
FBT-CR20-0336784-T
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STATE OF CONNECTICUT : JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF BRIDGEPORT
v. : AT BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT
NICHOLAS HALL : AUGUST 14, 2025

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

BEFORE THE HONORABLE PETER MCSHANE, JUDGE

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1 THE COURT: Good morning, everyone. Please be
2 seated. Good morning. This is State of Connecticut
3 v. Nicholas Hall, a matter that's on for sentencing.
4 I will -- we've got a lot of lawyers in this case, so
5 why don't we first start by having the lawyers put
6 their name on the record. We'll start first with the
7 State.

8 ATTY. DAVIS: Good morning, Your Honor. Kelly
9 Davis for the State of Connecticut.

10 ATTY. PALERMO: Good morning, Your Honor. Elena
11 Palermo for the State of Connecticut.

12 THE COURT: Good morning.

13 ATTY. BERKE: Morning, sir. Robert Berke for
14 Mr. Hall.

15 ATTY. RUSSELL: Good morning, Your Honor. I'm
16 Philip Russell. I'm on a motion for new trial.

17 THE COURT: Thank you. And we have attorneys
18 here too.

19 ATTY. FELSEN: Good morning, Your Honor. Audrey
20 Felsen for L.T. and the [T.] family.

21 ATTY. PAOLETTI: Good morning, Your Honor. Fred
22 Paoletti for L.T. and the [T.] family.

23 THE COURT: Thank you. I will note for the
24 following, we do have a motion for a new trial. I
25 think that should probably be addressed first. I
26 will note also that the defendant was originally
27 charged in, I believe, a six-count information. The

1 trial lasted four days. The State called upon 13
2 witnesses, introduced 40 exhibits. The defendant did
3 not testify or ever called a witness and introduced
4 10 exhibits. The jury deliberated for two and a half
5 days and announced their verdicts on 2/21/25; that
6 is, February 21, 2025.

7 I want to apologize to counsel -- actually, to
8 everyone for the delay here. I'm on trial right now
9 on a court trial. This is a date that's been a
10 moving target, getting this date to go to the
11 sentencing. I'm old, and I'm trying to put things in
12 the computer as opposed to a written calendar, and I
13 put the wrong date. So I thought it was next week.
14 I was -- not that I'm not ready to go. I certainly
15 am. Thanks to counsel's motion for new trial filed
16 on August 8th and a motion for a bond -- appeal bond
17 filed yesterday, it alerted me to the fact, "Hey,
18 Judge, you wrote down the wrong date." So it's on
19 today. I appreciate it. I had witnesses coming in
20 from the lab that had to testify this morning in the
21 court trial, so that's why you got bumped to 11:15.
22 I'm sorry, but I'm all yours now for as long as it
23 takes.

24 So, counsel, I will note this: as I said, the
25 motion for new trial has been filed. It was filed on
26 August 8th. It contains with it transcripts as well,
27 which were attached as Exhibit A. So I'll hear from

1 you, counsel. It's your motion.

2 ATTY. RUSSELL: Thank you very much, Your Honor.
3 This is a difficult day for Your Honor, and there's a
4 lot to be done. But I'm here on the simple and
5 finite task, which is bring to the Court's attention
6 the four items that came up during trial which we
7 think are compelling for a new trial, and I'll just
8 say what they are.

9 The first is the denial of the admission of the
10 matrimonial documents that were served and filed in
11 March 2020 that were offered by defense counsel and
12 the colloquy and questioning that would flow from the
13 admissibility of those. And the second is the --
14 it's our claim that the defendant was prejudiced by
15 the admission of the DNA information, and its
16 classification as relevant evidence, we think, was
17 misleading. Actually, I'm sorry, there are three.

18 THE COURT: Yeah, you said four, but I'm looking
19 at --

20 ATTY. RUSSELL: Yeah, there are three. I'm
21 sorry.

22 THE COURT: You're actually doing it in reverse
23 order of what you had in your motion, but go ahead.

24 ATTY. RUSSELL: Yes. And then the third and
25 last -- my apologies. The third and last is the
26 statement made by the State pertaining to the DNA
27 evidence in her closing remarks to the jury, and we

1 think that, taken together, and in particular the DNA
2 stream, we think, is a compound series of issues
3 which warrant a new trial. I think that, in
4 hindsight, it's clear that the DNA was important,
5 it's clear that it was important to the jury, and
6 it's clear that it was perhaps overvalued by the
7 State in its presentation to the Court.

8 I know that, in trial advocacy, prosecutors are
9 trained to utilize DNA because of the powerful hold
10 that those three letters have on the jury, and I know
11 that any way that it can be shoehorned into a case is
12 going to be helpful in terms of creating an aura of
13 certainty. And I know that our Supreme Court has now
14 put up heightened goal posts for the admission.
15 Independent of what the Supreme Court has said about
16 expert testimony in general, in particular, DNA is
17 fraught because it's dangerous what can be done with
18 it.

19 So Attorney Berke was given an opportunity to
20 cross-examine, and he was able to rest from the
21 witness on cross-examination that, under the findings
22 of the DNA evidence, two men on the jury could have
23 been in that bedroom to the best of your knowledge,
24 and that Q&A between witness and counsel really
25 argues my case better than I can, which is, what is
26 this? What is this thing that the jury just heard?
27 And so if the odds are so slim that it incriminates

1 the defendant, how does it meet the Code of Evidence
2 criteria? In light of the fact that it's DNA,
3 fraught with danger, fraught with prejudice, how does
4 it illuminate for the jury than a fact was more or
5 less likely to have occurred under the Rules of
6 Evidence?

7 So I think, respectfully, in hindsight, it was
8 an error by the Court not understanding fully the
9 frailty of this proffer and not appreciating, as can
10 be seen in hindsight, the powerful effect it had.
11 And again, why do I make that argument? Because the
12 State doubled down on that argument during its
13 closing remarks and, "Why is the DNA there? Why is
14 the DNA there?" And I put the verbatim quote from
15 the transcript in our papers. "Why is the DNA there?
16 Because the defendant was in that room doing what
17 he's accused of doing." When, in fact, as Your Honor
18 noted during the proffer, he said amply during his
19 police interview that he was in there on a regular
20 basis doing dad things. He was in there all the time
21 doing dad things.

22 So we have two warning signs on the way to what
23 I think supports this motion for a new trial, and
24 respectfully, in hindsight, we have two warning
25 signs, and the first is the importance that the State
26 attached not to the probative value, but to the
27 damning effect that it had, independent of its

1 evidentiary significance. And so the Court
2 appropriately saw what was happening during the
3 closing remarks by the State and set up some guide
4 rails for the State right in the middle of their
5 closing remarks, but this statement did get its way
6 into the jury box. "What was that DNA doing in his
7 room -- in the room? Why was it there? Because he
8 was doing what he's accused of."

9 Is it a strong argument? Sure. Is it based on,
10 at best, the thin reed of this evidence and its
11 admissibility? Yes. Did that essentially weave into
12 the verdict the uncertainty that improper evidence
13 was received? So that's the DNA argument, and there
14 it sits, and we believe that, on its own, it warrants
15 a new trial. So that's that part of it.

16 The second part that I raised is the matrimonial
17 pleadings. It is almost ordinary that allegations
18 are made during an acrimonious divorce. It is almost
19 academic that those types of things accompany or
20 coincide with an allegation of sexual assault because
21 if sexual assault comes to the attention of a
22 responsible mother, it will end the marriage. So on
23 the one hand, you know, it would be circular logic to
24 say that one follows the other or the other follows
25 one. However, in this case, we have the victim's
26 mother going to probably one of the best lawyers in
27 Fairfield County, doing her best to file for an

1 action which is going to be acrimonious, going to be
2 adversarial, that's known by the parties, and there's
3 no mention of the allegation.

4 So the police investigation begins on May 22nd.
5 The divorce filing is, I believe, March the 10th.
6 And the question again -- obviously there's a
7 gatekeeper function that this court has to abide by
8 about not letting this turn into a divorce case, and
9 we're sensitive to that. Obviously, that could
10 happen in any child sex assault case where a mother
11 moves proactively or reactively to protect her
12 children, but that is not what this divorce was, and
13 that was not what Attorney Berke's proffer was.
14 Attorney Berke's proffer was that this allegation was
15 no place on the horizon on March the 10th.

16 THE COURT: But wasn't he able to get that out
17 in evidence? Without the document itself, without
18 having a trial within a trial, wasn't Attorney Berke,
19 through his cross-examination -- and I'll say for the
20 record it was a quite skillful cross-examination, as
21 was his cross-examination of the DNA expert. Wasn't
22 he able to get all that out without the so-called
23 documents of the divorce proceedings?

24 ATTY. RUSSELL: I wasn't here.

25 THE COURT: Well, you read the transcript, I
26 take it.

27 ATTY. RUSSELL: I read the transcript. And I'm

1 not here to find fault --

2 THE COURT: Look, I wasn't at the game last
3 night, but I could tell you what happened.

4 ATTY. RUSSELL: And I read the transcript, and I
5 understand what Your Honor's saying. The argument is
6 there. I can't say he didn't do a good job with what
7 was left for him. However, this piece of paper was
8 unique. It was a unique snapshot of the state of
9 affairs, and it was the embodiment of that witness
10 putting her best foot forward to cast the defendant
11 in a bad light and to gain an advantage in what we
12 knew before it began was going to be an acrimonious
13 and a bitter and a complicated divorce.

14 So again, I come here with the benefit of
15 hindsight, and I don't dispute what Your Honor says,
16 but I think that those two -- frankly that is our
17 motion for a new trial. That is our issue. Those
18 two, the DNA and that piece of evidence, are our
19 issues for a new trial, they are our issues for an
20 appeal, and they are our issues for bond pending
21 appeal. That's what we have.

22 THE COURT: Your motion for a new trial has
23 nothing to do with newfound evidence. It's just on
24 the appellate issues; is that correct?

25 ATTY. RUSSELL: Yes, absolutely.

26 THE COURT: Anything further?

27 ATTY. RUSSELL: Thank you. No.

1 THE COURT: I'll hear from the State.

2 ATTY. DAVIS: Your Honor, just as a housekeeping
3 matter, was the Court able to review my response
4 dated August 11th to defense's motion?

5 THE COURT: Yes.

6 ATTY. DAVIS: Okay. I'm not going to belittle
7 my points. I already made them in a written motion.
8 But as the Court just stated, there's no new
9 evidentiary findings here. This court thoughtfully
10 deliberated these issues. We spent days on the DNA
11 and that information. The Court had a hearing
12 outside the presence of the jury, which I think
13 backed us up at least a day because we were dealing
14 with this issue. So the Court thoughtfully
15 considered these issues. Why file their DNA tests?
16 There's been Porter hearings on it. It's acceptable
17 DNA, and it is admissible. Counsel rightfully
18 attacked the weight of that, so it goes to -- it is
19 admissible, and this argument goes to weight, not
20 admissibility.

21 As far as counsel's recitation of the reliance
22 the jury might have had on this evidence, this isn't
23 a stranger rape, right? It's not like Joe Smith went
24 into Random's house and we only caught him because of
25 his DNA. It's not that case. In this case,
26 defendant, in his own statement, said, "Hey, yeah, I
27 was on L.T.'s bed. I had sex on L.T.'s bed a lot.

1 So whatever weight counsel wants to conflate that the
2 jury spent on this, it comes in by the defendant's
3 own admission anyways. He said he had sex in this
4 bed. So his argument might have more weight if this
5 was a stranger rape, but he lived in that house. He
6 was in that house.

7 There was amylase found in L.T.'s which that
8 profile matched the defendant's male lineage, and the
9 ratio -- I think the lowest was one in four. The
10 highest was one in 33. And counsel did do a skillful
11 job addressing those low ratios, but that goes to the
12 weight. And the jury took all the evidence, probably
13 including most powerfully the defendant's own
14 statement that he was on that bed, and weighed that
15 and came to the decision they came to. So that's all
16 I'll say about that, and I wrote it more artfully in
17 my motion.

18 As far as what counsel's considering the divorce
19 papers, what counsel -- Attorney Berke sought to
20 admit was a standard motion about custody. It was a
21 motion where G.T. said, on the advice of her lawyers,
22 "Hey, I want full custody." I spoke about this at
23 length during the trial. That's a standard motion in
24 custody cases. It's often filed -- and it has no --
25 and counsel talked about this at length and crossed
26 G.T. at length about that issue. It's not divorce
27 papers. It's a pleading about custody which

1 literally was a standard motion, and counsel asked
2 G.T. about those issues. So those are just the two
3 points I want to raise right now, but I just think
4 most importantly, we've litigated all this. So
5 there's nothing new here, the Court's considered all
6 these issues, and that's where the State sits on
7 that.

8 THE COURT: And I do want to just comment on
9 counsel's indication about the prosecution doubling
10 down, so to speak, in closing argument by mentioning
11 the DNA. Doubling down sounds kind of torrid. It
12 sounds that it's wrong. You know, without commenting
13 on potential ramifications on appeal, I've considered
14 the claims, but I just didn't care for counsel's
15 description as doubling down. The State commented on
16 evidence that I believe it could rightfully comment
17 on because of my rulings in the case.

18 So the State -- you know, I don't want anyone
19 to walk out of here thinking that I gave any
20 colorable claim to the fact that the State introduced
21 unlawful evidence and then doubled down -- that is,
22 went back to that -- and emphasized it to the jury.
23 The State had every right to comment upon evidence
24 that was presented in trial and which the State --
25 the Court had ruled was admissible. As I said, I'm
26 not going to speculate as to any appellate review.
27 I've considered the claims. They may be best

1 reserved for appellate review on those three issues.
2 This is not a claim of new evidence. So the Court --
3 and the parties are well familiar with the standard
4 to be used here. I will deny your motion.

5 Now, if we can get back to the sentencing at
6 this time. I have received the PSI. I'm not saying
7 this because I'm sentimental and leaving the
8 jurisdiction, but I have always been impressed by the
9 presentence investigations in such a busy
10 jurisdiction, and this is no exception. This is a
11 very lengthy 16-page presentence investigation. I
12 believe probation did a wonderful job here.

13 But I'd also like to thank counsel for including
14 various things. As a sentencing judge, I want to
15 have the most information possible, and I received
16 that. Even this morning, I received a polygraph
17 report from Attorney Berke that he forwarded to me
18 that I was able to receive. I'd rather have -- I
19 don't think there's such a thing for a sentencing
20 judge to have too much information. But between the
21 presentence investigation and what's been provided by
22 counsel, I appreciate, and I also appreciate the
23 organization, the manner in which it was presented.
24 It's nice to have the entire picture before making
25 such a big decision.

26 So just to go back, a jury of your peers, Mr.
27 Hall, found you guilty of the following charges:

1 sexual assault in the first degree with a victim less
2 than 10 years of age, sexual assault in the fourth
3 degree with a victim less than 13 years of age --
4 it's the same victim, but that's just how the
5 statutes read -- two counts of risk of injury, both
6 with victims less than 13 years of age. Your total
7 exposure, as I calculate it -- and the parties could
8 correct me if I'm wrong -- is 70 years. With
9 mandatory minimum time, that could be as much as 20
10 years. In addition, there's mandatory SAVA payments
11 that have to be made, fines that have to be paid.

12 But at this time, I'm going to look towards the
13 State. How would you like to proceed? I know we
14 have a jury box full with supporters of L.T. and her
15 family, but I'd like to hear from you and then
16 victim's counsel. However you want to proceed.

17 ATTY. DAVIS: Sure. Your Honor, I learned this
18 morning from L.T.'s family it will be -- Attorney
19 Felsen will be speaking on behalf of the family, and
20 also, Megan Martinez will be speaking on behalf of
21 the family as well.

22 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you. How would you
23 like to -- yes?

24 ATTY. BERKE: I'm sorry to interrupt the flow.
25 We should probably address the PSI objections.

26 THE COURT: Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't do that.
27 I'm still thinking of my trial. I do have a notation

1 here. We do have a presentence investigation. I
2 should have asked the State first, any changes,
3 deletions, omissions, anything that needs to be
4 addressed with regards to the 16-page document?

5 ATTY. DAVIS: Your Honor, I'm not going to ask
6 the Court to change the PSI, but I did want to
7 address page 11, where the offender reports his
8 relationship with his other daughter, A.S., who's not
9 a party to this case. The mother of A.S. has a
10 family attorney. Their custody is being litigated in
11 New York right now. It's Attorney Amy Ingraham. I
12 just want the Court to know that after speaking with
13 her, she said that they do not have a great
14 relationship.

15 When the defendant was convicted, she cut off
16 all contact with him. He did try to get phone calls
17 and was successful in getting phone calls with the
18 child on or about June 17th of 2025, but she's
19 actively trying to get rid of those. He's never had
20 unsupervised contact with that child, and the mother,
21 Nicole, wants nothing to do with him. So that's just
22 from Ms. Ingraham yesterday, Attorney Ingraham. But
23 besides that, I have no substantive changes.

24 THE COURT: Thank you. And just for the purpose
25 of the record, counsel is referring to page 11.
26 That's the first full paragraph on the top. The
27 defendant reported he has another five year old

1 daughter, A.S., who resides in New York. So that
2 that's what counsel -- but thank you, counsel, for
3 bringing that to my attention. I will not make any
4 substantive changes, but I will take that into
5 account. Anything else from the State?

6 ATTY. DAVIS: I just don't know if this is a
7 typo or miscorrection [sic]. I don't know if the
8 defendant misspoke. But I thought evidence on trial
9 -- looking at page 10, last paragraph, where he's
10 talking about his relationship with W.T., it states
11 that he didn't know she was his biological daughter
12 until she was six months old and didn't see her for
13 the first year and a half of her life. I must assume
14 that must be a typo, because that's really
15 contradictory to the evidence. I'll let defense
16 speak to that, but that just stuck out to me.

17 ATTY. BERKE: That is a mistake.

18 THE COURT: I think it's sort of a cut and
19 paste, but I took it as with regards to A.S. So what
20 I will do -- and again, counsel's referring to page
21 10. It would be the very bottom of page 10, W.T.
22 I'm going to just take out that entire paragraph.

23 ATTY. DAVIS: Thank you.

24 THE COURT: Thank you. Attorney Berke, any
25 changes?

26 ATTY. BERKE: Thank you, Your Honor. I've had
27 an opportunity to review the PSI with my client, and

1 we have shared some requests that we make of the
2 Court.

3 THE COURT: Sure.

4 ATTY. BERKE: Conceptually, under the paragraph
5 or under the section that's entitled current offense,
6 there are references to Victim Number Two which I
7 think are improper. It doesn't affect the context of
8 the sentencing because the Court heard the evidence
9 in the case. It does affect proceedings down the
10 road, and I don't think it's appropriate to have
11 Witness Number Two included within that entire
12 section.

13 There are also several references to allegations
14 of conduct that are not part of the current offense
15 that specifically referenced Victim Number Two, and I
16 believe they should be removed from a number of
17 paragraphs. I can highlight which paragraphs, but I
18 don't think it's appropriate for them to be included
19 within this document.

20 THE COURT: I did note that when I read it. I'm
21 very familiar after sitting here with the trial that
22 there was one alleged victim. So what I will do --
23 and the one that I'll put back in the court file, the
24 PSI I'll put back in the court file, anywhere where
25 it says Victim Two, it's been excised or taken out
26 and just simply replaced with sister.

27 ATTY. BERKE: I'd also ask the Court to remove

1 the paragraphs that talk about conduct alleged by
2 Victim Two.

3 THE COURT: Okay. Would the State like to be
4 heard on that?

5 ATTY. DAVIS: I don't object.

6 THE COURT: Okay. So, Attorney Berke, do you
7 want to direct me to the --

8 ATTY. BERKE: I certainly can. The third
9 paragraph on page 3 --

10 THE COURT: Yes.

11 ATTY. BERKE: -- the fifth line begins with
12 Victim Number One.

13 THE COURT: Yes.

14 ATTY. BERKE: I'd ask that line be removed.

15 ATTY. DAVIS: I'm sorry, where are we, counsel?

16 THE COURT: Victim Number One had also said that
17 it began -- this is the third paragraph.

18 ATTY. BERKE: Third paragraph, page 3.

19 ATTY. DAVIS: Okay.

20 THE COURT: That it began happening around when
21 she was eight years old.

22 ATTY. BERKE: No, it begins with --

23 THE COURT: The next sentence down?

24 ATTY. BERKE: Fifth line. It begins with Victim
25 Number One. It's in the middle of the line.

26 ATTY. DAVIS: Oh, about the piggyback ride?

27 ATTY. BERKE: Yes.

1 ATTY. DAVIS: Okay.

2 ATTY. BERKE: I'd ask that line be removed.

3 THE COURT: It's out. Done.

4 ATTY. BERKE: On page 4, the first full
5 paragraph --

6 THE COURT: Go ahead.

7 ATTY. BERKE: -- it's the last line of the first
8 full paragraph.

9 ATTY. DAVIS: Starting with she said?

10 ATTY. BERKE: Starting with the victim's mother.

11 ATTY. DAVIS: Okay.

12 ATTY. BERKE: I'm sorry, it's the second to last
13 line to the last line.

14 ATTY. DAVIS: To the end? Okay, no objection.

15 THE COURT: Out.

16 ATTY. BERKE: On page 5, the first two lines of
17 the fifth paragraph -- actually, it's the --

18 ATTY. DAVIS: Starting Victim One --

19 ATTY. BERKE: From Victim One to --

20 THE COURT: Victim One also explained; that
21 whole sentence out? Oh, it should be also --

22 ATTY. DAVIS: I think Victim One said that twice
23 she saw Nick give Victim Two -- is that what you're
24 talking about, counsel?

25 ATTY. BERKE: Yes.

26 ATTY. DAVIS: All right.

27 ATTY. BERKE: And then the next line which

1 references that as well.

2 ATTY. DAVIS: No objection.

3 THE COURT: I'm sorry, I don't have that last
4 one. Page 5?

5 ATTY. BERKE: Page 5, the fifth paragraph.
6 Unfortunately, they all begin with Victim Number One.

7 THE COURT: Right.

8 ATTY. BERKE: It says Victim Number One said
9 that twice --

10 THE COURT: She also explained --

11 ATTY. DAVIS: Starting with Victim One said that
12 twice she saw Nick give Victim Two a piggyback ride.

13 THE COURT: Okay.

14 ATTY. BERKE: Through the end of the third line.
15 I'd rather not repeat that.

16 THE COURT: Very good. It's out.

17 ATTY. BERKE: The bottom of page 5, there's one
18 line that flows into page 6. That whole paragraph
19 refers to Victim Number Two.

20 THE COURT: State have any objection on that,
21 the whole paragraph ending on page 5 and going onto
22 page 6?

23 ATTY. DAVIS: No, Your Honor.

24 THE COURT: It's out.

25 ATTY. BERKE: On page 6, the entire paragraph
26 that begins during parts of the conversation.

27 ATTY. DAVIS: I'm just reading it, Your Honor.

1 ATTY. BERKE: Actually, it should not be the
2 entire paragraph.

3 THE COURT: No.

4 ATTY. DAVIS: The first two sentences, the State
5 has no objection. So during parts of the
6 conversation at the sleepover, Victim Two told
7 Witness One that Nick picks her up by his peepee.
8 Victim Two said that she pretends like she's sleeping
9 when sometimes he touches her. I don't object to
10 that coming out.

11 THE COURT: I think the rest stays in.

12 ATTY. BERKE: May I have a moment, Your Honor,
13 to talk to --

14 THE COURT: Take your time, please.

15 ATTY. DAVIS: So, Your Honor, just so it
16 contextually makes sense, on that first paragraph on
17 page 6 -- not the first paragraph, paragraph 3 on
18 page 6 --

19 THE COURT: Yes.

20 ATTY. DAVIS: -- I think I'd ask the Court to
21 keep in the part of the sentence that says during
22 parts of the conversation at the sleepover. So keep
23 that. Take out starting Victim Two all the way to he
24 touches her. Does that make sense?

25 ATTY. BERKE: Yes.

26 THE COURT: Okay.

27 ATTY. BERKE: I would just ask that Victim

1 Number Two be removed from the third line of that
2 paragraph.

3 THE COURT: Got it.

4 ATTY. DAVIS: No objection.

5 THE COURT: There's actually victim -- it's the
6 third line and the sixth line, seventh line?

7 ATTY. BERKE: Yes, correct.

8 THE COURT: Okay. Anything else?

9 ATTY. BERKE: No.

10 THE COURT: Thank you. Okay, at this time I'll
11 hear from the -- I'm going to hold on to this, but
12 I'll give it to you at the end, Madam Clerk. Thank
13 you, Madam Marshal. I'll hear from the State how you
14 want to proceed. Do you want Attorney Felsen to go
15 first or do you want --

16 ATTY. DAVIS: I'm going to have Ms. Martinez go
17 first, then I'll have Attorney Felsen, then I'll go.

18 THE COURT: Ms. Martinez? Thank you. I'll ask
19 -- thanks. If you could just spell your last name
20 for us and then just -- I'm going to ask -- and I
21 know it's difficult -- if you could please keep your
22 voice up and speak near the microphone. Thank you.

23 MS. MARTINEZ: Martinez, M-a-r-t-i-n-e-z.

24 THE COURT: Thank you. You may proceed.

25 MS. MARTINEZ: My name is Megan Cano Martinez,
26 and I speak on behalf of my husband, Aldelso Cano
27 Martinez -- "Checho" -- and I on the disturbing topic

1 of our daughter's rapist, Nicholas Robert Hall.

2 My husband has no interest in seeing Nicholas or
3 the Hall family for sentencing, as he is a stronger
4 person than I. He already understands that Nicholas
5 and his family will not take what we have to say to
6 heart, nor does he believe that they are entitled to
7 our experience. Meanwhile, I'm happy to take my
8 chances, as L's and our family's struggle should not
9 go left unknown, especially now, having two extra
10 months to get my thoughts together.

11 For reference, S.T. is my husband's biological
12 daughter with G.T. However, we share parental
13 responsibility of L.T. and W.T. by heart, if not by
14 law. Upon beginning to date my husband seven years
15 ago, it was made very clear to me how much he adored
16 his children during the course of getting to know one
17 another. Out of the then two girls, L was so
18 apprehensive to let me or anyone into her life, and
19 we now understand why.

20 When I first met Nicholas Hall, he and [G.] had
21 welcomed W into the world. He shook my husband's
22 hand and hugged me in greeting whenever we all saw
23 each other. Checho and I were excited for the girls
24 to have a baby sister. We all split and spent time
25 between L and S, and we loved seeing Baby W when we
26 could.

27 We were completely unaware of what was happening

1 to L until my husband received a frantic call late
2 one afternoon from his ex-wife [G.]. We were both
3 home upon receiving this call, and he walked out of
4 our house and into our driveway. I watched as the
5 life left his body as the call continued. He stared
6 into nothingness as [G.] relayed this information to
7 him. He told me what he could. I had to pry the
8 information out of him. He had heard it, absorbed
9 it, and could barely get the words out to tell me
10 what had happened to our daughter. He was angry, he
11 was heartbroken, and he didn't speak for days.

12 I had tried to concentrate on helping my family
13 and push my feelings down. Once my emotions had
14 surfaced, I was sickened. Sleepless nights were
15 spent wondering what the hell our daughter went
16 through. This couldn't be our life. We tried to get
17 on with everyday life, but we knew our family was
18 never going to be the same. There was evil in our
19 world, and it hurt.

20 The first time I picked up L and S after the
21 disclosure, my husband and I had never been so
22 nervous to talk to our own girls. What do we say?
23 How do we not cry? How do we be strong for them?
24 Watching my husband hug his children for the first
25 time after we found out was awful, a grown man crying
26 as he clung to his little daughters. There was a
27 pain that was unspoken but understood between he and

1 the girls, and that was all my husband could muster.

2 Sometimes when it was just L and I, she would
3 begin to talk. It was plain to me that she didn't
4 want the burden of her memories to carry on her own.
5 She would reiterate what had already been shared with
6 us, but I would listen and try to gather up the
7 strength to respond. The horrific sexual context
8 being described to me from our child's voice
9 paralyzed me. She used the words of a child that did
10 not know the proper words or body parts or bodily
11 functions. She had so many questions.

12 The sex talk came earlier than we had ever
13 expected, and of course she still didn't understand.
14 I didn't want to spend time discussing reproductive
15 matters further to our nine-year-old. I made it
16 clear that the acts he performed on her or made her
17 perform on him were for his own selfish needs. He
18 broke her trust. He was not thinking of her
19 feelings. He wasn't thinking of anything but
20 himself. How do you begin to explain this to a child
21 who looks to you for comfort and answers?

22 Throughout these years until Nicholas's
23 sentencing, of course we had moments where what
24 happened faded into the back of our minds, but never
25 too far. Nicholas was still out free. Nicholas Hall
26 has uprooted our children's lives, our lives, and our
27 family's lives. My husband and I were harassed by a

1 private investigator hired by the Hall family. This
2 private investigator had appeared at my husband's
3 place of work, our home, and made countless phone
4 calls. We spoke to her, although we had no legal
5 obligation.

6 About two years later, my husband and I walked
7 into a McDonald's in Poughkeepsie, New York. Mask
8 regulations had long been lifted, yet a man wearing a
9 sweatshirt, sweatpants, baseball hat, disposable
10 gloves, and face mask swung the door open.

11 Realization hit us once we saw his red hair and a
12 rose tattoo on his neck. He went out of his way to
13 open the door for us and say, "Nice to see you guys,"
14 only to quickly walk to his car. Why not just leave
15 us alone? Why not go out another exit? Why interact
16 with us at all?

17 In August 2023, an investigator with the New
18 York State Police and Child Protective Services
19 worker were waiting for us in our driveway on our way
20 home from vacation. Nicholas had tried to clear his
21 name one last time by trying to implicate that my
22 husband was the one guilty of sex crimes against our
23 children to New York State officials. For three
24 weeks, we were in open communication with both
25 parties as they diligently worked up to follow on
26 Nicholas's accusations. A week after our wedding in
27 September 2023, Checho and I were separately taken

1 into New York State Police interrogation rooms and
2 questioned. The New York State Police investigator
3 found no suspicion, and my husband and I were no
4 longer investigated, as it was obvious to what
5 Nicholas and the Hall family were trying to cleanse
6 themselves of.

7 What did we ever do to Nicholas? What did we
8 ever do to the Hall family? Why harass us? Why try
9 every tactic they could possibly think of doing? The
10 simple answer is guilt. Stooping so low, meanwhile,
11 we just want a normal life. Nicholas should be
12 ashamed of the lies he's told his family, ashamed of
13 the hell they've all put us through, and ashamed for
14 not believing a child in her greatest time of need.

15 The sentencing of Nicholas Hall goes far beyond
16 protecting only L. For the last five years, L and S
17 were aware of the fact that their baby sister was
18 visiting her rapist father. Imagine the feelings
19 that arose in us as toddler W, on numerous occasions,
20 started talking naively about Nicholas. Our two
21 older girls handled each situation by brushing it off
22 as the mature young ladies they are for the sake of
23 their baby sister. Because of him, our girls had to
24 grow up way too fast. I'm happy to say she doesn't
25 speak of him or the Halls now, as life is thankfully
26 going on without them.

27 As for now, we are all preserving W's innocence,

1 but someday she will find out what he did, and I hope
2 that haunts Nicholas and the Hall family, if not by
3 us, by somewhere. W's love for her sisters is
4 endless, and I dread her eventual rage and heartbreak
5 when she finds out.

6 As parents, we hate him. He physically makes us
7 sick. We are sickened that we have shaken his hand
8 and we have hugged him when those same hands and body
9 were used as a weapon against our daughter. We hate
10 what he did to L so many times she's lost count. He
11 played with her innocent mind and body. We hate,
12 though, we had any level of trust in him. How dare
13 he put this weight on her young soul? Whatever game
14 he thinks he's winning at, he's not. The only
15 thought that gave us any solace on this matter is
16 stressing that karma and justice will come, and it
17 finally did.

18 As human beings, Checho and I wonder what
19 happened to him in his past or what affliction of the
20 mind made him believe that taking a child's
21 innocence, sense of safety, and normalcy was okay.
22 However, I'm sure he's never wondered that. We're
23 not monsters. We understand he's someone's son,
24 grandson, brother, uncle. But he did this to our
25 daughter. We pity his family and friends. We pity
26 them for believing their family member was innocent
27 and are not capable of these crimes.

1 Yet through all of this, we still have L. She
2 has spoken her truth and spread that weight for us to
3 bear with her now. What happened to her does not
4 define her. She is her own person. She is smart,
5 creative, silly, beautiful, compassionate, and
6 strong-willed. Nicholas is beyond undeserving of
7 knowing her. He did not break her, regardless of his
8 efforts. Whatever he tried to take from her, he
9 failed. She is the strongest young woman I have ever
10 met, and my husband and I are so proud to call her
11 ours.

12 A horrible chapter of our lives will be put to
13 rest with Nicholas gone. There's been a cloud of
14 dread, a pit of despair in our souls throughout these
15 years. We knew that even in our happiest of moments,
16 there was something evil to come back into the front
17 of our minds once that moment ended. Thank God we
18 are all now free to heal and be with the girls free
19 of this nightmare. The world is now a better place.
20 We don't want any of our children, any children, to
21 live fearing the future, fearing their safety, and
22 fearing that justice was not served.

23 Thank you for your time, Your Honor. We commend
24 you for your role in this case. The verdict of
25 guilty in the case of Nicholas Robert Hall is a
26 relief we cannot explain.

27 THE COURT: Thank you. Before I hear from you,

1 Attorney Felsen, I'm just obligated -- I feel
2 obligated to make comments. Ms. Martinez, I want you
3 to know loud and clear, when I heard you speak, it's
4 almost like you spoke of some guilt on your own part.
5 Do not feel guilty at all. I'm going to use the
6 words you said. There is evil in our world, and it
7 hurts. You had no way of knowing. Please do not
8 cast any blame on yourself --

9 MS. MARTINEZ: Thank you.

10 THE COURT: -- or your husband. You have done
11 nothing wrong. I had the same comments that I was
12 going to say to L.T. that she has done nothing wrong
13 --

14 MS. MARTINEZ: No, she hasn't.

15 THE COURT: -- but I want you to know that
16 because when I heard you and I heard your tone, I was
17 overtaken by the fact that maybe you think you did
18 something wrong here, and I'm going to tell you
19 resoundingly and very clear and loudly no, you
20 haven't. Go right ahead, Attorney Felsen.

21 ATTY. FELSEN: Thank you, Your Honor. Do you
22 want me to come up so I'm behind a mic? I'm happy to
23 do that. Thank you. Your Honor, I do have a
24 statement that is on behalf of and for the [T.]
25 family --

26 THE COURT: Thank you.

27 ATTY. FELSEN: -- but I also had the opportunity

1 to review an adult psychosexual risk report, and I
2 know Your Honor had mentioned early on in the
3 proceedings that it's important for you to have all
4 of this information because it factors into,
5 obviously, your sentence. I understand that there's
6 a request for an appellate bond in this case, and
7 it's incumbent upon me, after reading it, to make
8 sure that Your Honor has the correct information. So
9 if it's okay with Your Honor, I will read the
10 statement that I prepared --

11 THE COURT: Please.

12 ATTY. FELSEN: -- and then when that issue comes
13 up, I'd like to address some of those factors that
14 were raised upon my review of that report.

15 THE COURT: Sure.

16 ATTY. FELSEN: Thank you, Your Honor. I'm
17 speaking on behalf of L.T. and the [T.] family. L.T.
18 doesn't want or need to speak to or about Mr. Hall
19 ever again. Five years ago, L.T. was eight years
20 old. That eight-year-old girl had the courage to
21 tell a family friend that Mr. Hall was sexually
22 abusing her. Thankfully, that family friend told her
23 mother, and that mother told L.T. mother, [G.T.]. At
24 that time, [G.] had a good relationship with Mr.
25 Hall, even though they were getting divorced.
26 Gretchen was dating someone else, and she was --

27 THE COURT: I'm just going to stop you.

1 ATTY. FELSEN: Yes?

2 THE COURT: Throughout the trial, we've been
3 using initials for her.

4 ATTY. FELSEN: G.T. Thank you, Your Honor.

5 THE COURT: Thank you. So I'm going to ask that
6 that be --

7 ATTY. FELSEN: We strike that.

8 THE COURT: I'll ask that the previous reference
9 -- and you're not doing anything wrong.

10 ATTY. FELSEN: Thank you, Your Honor.

11 ATTY. DAVIS: Also -- sorry to jump in. Can we
12 also strike the last name?

13 ATTY. FELSEN: G.T. Thank you. G.T. was dating
14 someone else and was grateful that Mr. Hall remained
15 a part of his biological daughter's life. As a young
16 mother of three beautiful girls, G.T. appreciated
17 that Mr. Hall would watch her children while she ran
18 errands and occasionally went out.

19 It's impossible to adequately express the shock
20 and anguish G.T. experienced when she got that call
21 about L.T.'s disclosure of sexual assault. The man
22 she married, gave access to her home, let care for
23 her children was a monster. As a mother, your first
24 duty is to your children, and G.T. embodies that in
25 every way. As Your Honor had just mentioned, she's
26 not at fault. She never could have seen this coming,
27 and she's going to have to learn that she did nothing

1 wrong. She has to forgive herself and realize that
2 Mr. Hall is a predator and repeatedly took advantage
3 of the most vulnerable victims, a little girl
4 entrusted to his care.

5 L.T. has had to talk about what Mr. Hall did to
6 her with investigators, therapists, and prosecutors,
7 and finally, five years later, a jury. She was
8 subjected to intense cross-examination. Her private
9 life was exposed for everybody to hear. She never,
10 ever once wavered because she knows what was done to
11 her and because she didn't want this to happen to her
12 little sister or anybody else's daughter or anybody
13 else's little sister.

14 Mr. Hall was convicted by a jury of, among other
15 things, sexual assault in the first degree. The
16 statutory mandatory minimum is a floor. It's a
17 minimum. It's a statutory minimum. It's what a
18 defendant would get who's convicted of this who
19 pleads guilty to it for one act one time, what a
20 defendant would get who accepts responsibility,
21 expresses remorse, shows effort towards
22 rehabilitation. That's not what this is. That's not
23 who Mr. Hall is.

24 When Mr. Hall was first arrested and the police
25 confronted him, Mr. Hall explained that L.T. must
26 have been hiding in a closet when he and G.T. were
27 having sex. He explained that L.T. must have known

1 about sex because some little boy on a school bus
2 exposed his penis to her. Neither of those were
3 true. Or that he might have mistakenly,
4 inappropriately touched her while wrestling with her.
5 That's not true. Or that his bodily fluids must have
6 gotten all over the bed sheets because he had sex
7 there. That's not true.

8 For the past five years, he and his family have
9 maligned and attacked L.T.'s family members, even
10 going so far as to suggest -- to pick up the phone
11 and call the police and suggest that one of L.T.'s
12 closest family members was her assailant. I fully
13 expect Mr. Hall's sentencing hearing and what his
14 family member say to be a variation on that same
15 theme.

16 L.T. has an incredibly close and loving family,
17 and they're doing what they need to do to heal and
18 move forward. They'll be fine. She'll be more than
19 fine. The repeated nature of Mr. Hall's disturbing
20 and depraved conduct and refusal to accept
21 responsibility points to a need for a sentence that
22 takes into consideration specific deterrence and the
23 need to protect the community. I'll address later
24 the moderate risk that was referenced in the
25 psychosexual risk evaluation when the issue of the
26 appellate bond comes up and to make sure that Your
27 Honor has correct facts. But a significant period of

1 incarceration is necessary not just to punish Mr.
2 Hall, because it's obvious that punishment is
3 warranted and significant punishment at that, but
4 there's no amount of time that will adequately
5 protect the public. Thank you, Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Thank you, Attorney Felsen.
7 Anything further?

8 ATTY. DAVIS: I'll just speak briefly.

9 THE COURT: Sure.

10 ATTY. DAVIS: I do have comments about the
11 psychosexual analysis as well.

12 THE COURT: I would appreciate if you could
13 reserve that until the consideration with regards to
14 the appeal bond.

15 ATTY. DAVIS: Of course.

16 THE COURT: I think that's the most appropriate
17 time.

18 ATTY. DAVIS: I'm just going to start with a
19 quote from it, however, because I think it hits the
20 nail on the head.

21 THE COURT: A quote from what?

22 ATTY. DAVIS: I'm going to start with a quote
23 from it, however, because I think it kind of hits the
24 nail on the head.

25 THE COURT: Oh, okay. Sure.

26 ATTY. DAVIS: Then I'll get to the substantive
27 later in Your Honor's order. But on page 2, the

1 evaluator says, when she's talking about her
2 interview with Mr. Hall, "While the interactions with
3 the undersigned were congenial, it was evident that
4 Mr. Hall was attempting to portray himself in a
5 predetermined way in attempt to present more
6 favorably." And I just think that kind of is the
7 crux of this whole case.

8 He presented -- tried to present himself more
9 favorably when he was dating G.T. and trying to get
10 to know her and trying to come across as this great
11 dad, right, and then the second they got married, it
12 fell apart. He tried to present more favorably with
13 the police when he was trying to be their buddy. And
14 the Court saw the interview. He talked about his
15 video games and his life. He talked for hours with
16 the police, and he blamed Checho and he blamed
17 school. He blamed kids on the bus. He was trying to
18 present favorably there. And notably, those theories
19 are all absent from the psychosexual. And then he --
20 the State contends he tried to present favorably here
21 when he came every day with the huge crosses. He
22 wanted to come across a certain way, and I think the
23 Court is smart enough to see through that.

24 The jury found the defendant guilty beyond a
25 reasonable doubt of sexual assault in the first
26 degree, sexual assault in the fourth degree, and risk
27 of injury to a minor under both the (a)(1) subsection

1 and the (a)(2) subsection. The facts that led to
2 this conviction involve the defendant sexually
3 assaulting L.T., then approximately only eight years
4 old, over a period of over a year while he was
5 married to L.T.'s mom and then after, when he would
6 babysit. Because the two, G.T. and the defendant,
7 had a good relationship.

8 The jury heard about the assaults in detail from
9 L.T. The jury convicted on the counts pertaining to
10 fellatio performed by L.T. onto the defendant and
11 acquitted as to the anal intercourse. The jury heard
12 from L.T. that these assaults became routine in
13 nature. The defendant would take her to the laundry
14 room and sexually assault her.

15 She could describe at eight years old how the
16 penis felt. She said it would become hard and it had
17 veins. She talked about clear pee coming out of his
18 penis when she was nine. But when she testified as a
19 thirteen-year-old, she now knows it was semen. At
20 the time, she didn't. She was way too young. She
21 described how the semen tasted and it was salty. It
22 should be noted that L.T. disclosed when she had just
23 turned nine. What nine-year-old knows what a penis
24 feels like? What nine-year-old knows what clear pee
25 is? What nine-year-old knows what it tastes like?

26 The State is proud of L.T. for coming forward
27 and being able to stand up on the stand. I

1 personally couldn't have done that. The jury heard
2 that the sexual assault at the hands of the
3 defendant, as Attorney Felsen said, did not just
4 happen one time. The Court allowed L.T. to testify
5 about how these sexual assaults often happened in the
6 laundry room, and the defendant forced her to perform
7 fellatio on him. But she also testified about how
8 the defendant forced her to touch his penis in the
9 living room as well as in her own bedroom.

10 The Court just heard from Attorney Felsen about
11 how this impacted L.T., but I think the Court has
12 enough experience to know from doing these types of
13 cases to know that this will impact L.T. for the rest
14 of her life. It will affect G.T. for the rest of her
15 life. It will affect Megan and Checho for the rest
16 of their lives. It'll affect her grandparents, her
17 family, the entire family of G.T. and L.T. for the
18 rest of their lives. This doesn't go away. Today
19 doesn't end it.

20 If she didn't have trust issues, L.T. will now.
21 The defendant was supposed to be a father figure for
22 her, and by his own words in his police interview, he
23 made a lot of notes about that. He was her dad. He
24 loved being a dad. What kind of dad does this? The
25 defendant ruined his family. Because of his actions,
26 both of his daughters -- one's five and one's six --
27 will grow up without their father while he remains

1 incarcerated. L.T. is going to struggle for the rest
2 of her life because of what he did to her. She has
3 -- L.T. had no relationship with her biological
4 father, and the defendant had been a father to her,
5 and he took up that role since he began dating her
6 mother. She called him Dad.

7 Under State v. Huey, the sentencing court can
8 consider information that would otherwise not be
9 admissible at trial and was not sought to be
10 admitted. The Court's aware that cases of child
11 sexual abuse rise and fall on the ability of the
12 minor child to testify. Most times in these cases,
13 children under a certain age either cannot or are not
14 comfortable talking about this and cannot articulate
15 what happened to them, and in those instances, the
16 State may choose not to prosecute at the time.

17 The State chose not to pursue a case against the
18 defendant for assaulting S.T. and/or W.T.H., but it
19 should be noted that both girls made separate
20 disclosures. S.T., when this case happened in 2020,
21 disclosed to Witness Jaden, who spoke, and did not
22 disclose during a forensic; she couldn't say it. And
23 W.T.H. did tell her mother while this case was
24 pending. L.T.'s not the only one who alleged this.

25 I do want to note that the defendant does have
26 no record to speak of, but Your Honor knows that this
27 is common with sexual predators. They are often able

1 to get away with their crimes because of the way they
2 prey on the young and keep them in fear, and if L.T.
3 had not disclosed when she did, who knows how long
4 this would have went on because the defendant was
5 still babysitting the kids often. L.T. was brave to
6 come forward when she did.

7 The Court's been doing this for a long time.
8 The Court's very familiar with criminal sentencing,
9 so I'm not going to give the Court a number. As
10 Attorney Felsen noted, the floor here is 10 years,
11 but the State believes that, based on the allegations
12 here, based on the number of times that the assaults
13 happened, I would ask the Court to impose a lengthy
14 period of incarceration. Thank you.

15 THE COURT: Thank you. I do just want to
16 address something. You indicated -- you saw me panic
17 probably when you spoke about the jury coming back
18 with a verdict on (a) (1) on the risk of injury. My
19 recollection is that the jury returned verdicts on
20 (a) (2) risk of injury and, by the verdict accepted
21 and ordered by me, it was both proven that she was
22 under the age of 13 at the time.

23 ATTY. DAVIS: Thank you. I misspoke.

24 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you. Attorney Berke?

25 ATTY. BERKE: Thank you, sir. There are a
26 number of people that wish to address the Court,
27 family and friends of my client, in addition to Mr.

1 Hall.

2 THE COURT: Sure.

3 ATTY. BERKE: Some of them --

4 THE COURT: If they could come up to where
5 you're standing and use that microphone, that would
6 be most helpful.

7 ATTY. BERKE: Sure. I'll move the mic. Some of
8 them have expressed they want to speak themselves.
9 Others ask that they stand by me while I read their
10 statement.

11 THE COURT: That's fine.

12 ATTY. BERKE: So if I can just begin by calling
13 each one.

14 THE COURT: Sure.

15 ATTY. BERKE: Mr. Golino? Your Honor, if I may,
16 many people are not familiar with the process. I had
17 a chance to review many of these letters. Some of
18 them don't really know that -- don't know that they
19 cannot use the first names of people involved, so if
20 you can just please keep that in mind.

21 MR. GOLINO: Dear Judge McShane --

22 THE COURT: I'm sorry, your name and if you
23 could spell your last name for the record? I
24 apologize for interrupting.

25 MR. GOLINO: Leonard Golino, L-e-o-n-a-r-d
26 G-o-l-i-n-o. Dear Judge McShane, my name is Leonard
27 Golino, and I'm writing on behalf of Nicholas Hall,

1 who is scheduled to appear before you for sentencing.
2 I's aware of the seriousness of the crimes he has
3 convicted of and respect the jury's decision in this
4 case. However, I believe it is important to provide
5 a fuller picture of Nicholas Hall as a person.

6 I first became acquainted with Nicholas 14 years
7 ago. He was the best friend of my daughter's fiancé
8 and best man at their wedding and later became the
9 godfather to my grandson, Jayden, now 10 years old.
10 Over the years, I have come to know Nicholas and his
11 family as a loving and devout family who enjoy
12 spending time together. Nicholas possesses strong
13 family values and treats others with respect and
14 compassion. He was a frequent visitor in my home
15 over the years, and no one has ever felt
16 uncomfortable or uneasy in his presence.

17 Nicholas demonstrated his true compassion for my
18 daughter and my family during a difficult divorce
19 with his best friend, my daughter's husband. He
20 never allowed the divorce to hinder his friendship or
21 loyalty to my daughter or my family. He was
22 instrumental in helping my daughter during this
23 period, which exemplifies his genuine compassion of
24 others.

25 On numerous occasions, I have observed Nicholas
26 at work at his family's business interacting with
27 others. His compassion for helping others was

1 evident in his actions. Nicholas had a passion for
2 music writing and aspires to achieve his life goals
3 and dreams.

4 Your Honor, I was present in the audience
5 throughout the entirety of the trial and had lodged
6 accommodations at a local hotel in support of
7 Nicholas and his family. Over my 21 years of service
8 as a police officer, both undercover and as a second-
9 grade detectives, I've personally been involved in
10 numerous sex offense cases, including domestic
11 assaults, assault, robbery, burglary, and for the
12 last seven days before retirement, in the homicide
13 unit. I have participated in over 100 trials, both
14 as a prosecution witness and a defense witness. I
15 would respectfully like to make mention, without
16 criticism, on some of the observations I witnessed in
17 the courtroom during the trial.

18 On one occasion, a female audience member seated
19 with the victim's family repeatedly nodded her head,
20 shaking it up and down to affirm and side to side to
21 negate while the victim was testifying. This
22 behavior gave the impression that she was coaching
23 the witness, prompting the sheriff to reprimand her
24 and cease or be removed from the courtroom. On
25 another occasion, while I briefly left the courtroom
26 to use the restroom, I observed an expert witness
27 from the prosecution who had just concluded his

1 testimony discussing his testimony with another
2 expert witness who was about to take the stand,
3 coincidentally as the sheriff called him in.

4 In conclusion, Your Honor, while acknowledging
5 the gravity of the charges against Nicholas and his
6 guilty verdict, I humbly request that you consider
7 his positive qualities and exercise leniency in
8 sentencing. I believe that Nicholas has the
9 potential to become a productive member of the
10 community and, with hope, achieve his life goals and
11 dreams. Respectfully, Leonard Golino. Thank you.

12 THE COURT: Thank you, sir.

13 ATTY. BERKE: Your Honor, I received a letter
14 from Michael Glassey, who's unable to attend. If I
15 may read that? "Dear Judge McShane, my name is
16 Michael Glassey. I'm a retired New York State
17 trooper, a father to two boys aged 12 and 15, and
18 longtime resident of Pearl River, New York. I
19 respectfully write this letter in support of Nicholas
20 Hall, who I've known for over 20 years through his
21 family's business.

22 Through the decades I've known Nick and his
23 family, I've come to know him as a generally good-
24 hearted and dependable individual. He has never
25 shown any behavior, tendencies, or interests remotely
26 aligned with the accusations he now faces. To me,
27 this situation is entirely out of character for the

1 man I've known for so long.

2 Nick has always been a happy go lucky person,
3 someone who brings light and humor into a room and
4 someone who is consistently willing to lend a hand.
5 Whether it's helping fix a car, solve a computer
6 problem, or simply being available to listen, Nick is
7 the type of person you can rely on without
8 hesitation. His actions have always been grounded in
9 care and kindness.

10 I had also the privilege of meeting his
11 daughter, W.T.H., when she was just a baby. Seeing
12 him in the role of father has only reinforced my
13 respect for his character. He's attentive, loving,
14 and clearly devoted to her well-being.

15 I respectfully ask that you take my words into
16 consideration during sentencing. I understand the
17 seriousness of the situation, but I also ask that you
18 weigh Nick's longstanding character, his history of
19 good conduct, and the impact this will have on his
20 daughter and family. I believe he has the strength
21 and integrity to move forward and make positive
22 contributions to those around him. Thank you for
23 your consideration."

24 THE COURT: Thank you. Counsel, I will ask
25 this. The court monitor handed me a note. I would
26 deeply appreciate copies of any written statements
27 read in the record if possible. It certainly aids in

1 the complete transcription.

2 ATTY. BERKE: Absolutely.

3 THE COURT: Thank you.

4 ATTY. BERKE: Tiffany Ward, she had asked me to
5 read her letter.

6 THE COURT: And last name is spelled?

7 ATTY. BERKE: Ward, W-a-r-d.

8 THE COURT: Thank you. Tiffany Ward.

9 ATTY. BERKE: "Dear Honorable Peter McShane, I'm
10 writing to support Nicholas Hall. My name is Tiffany
11 Ward, and I have known Nicholas his whole life. I
12 have been friends with his mother since grade school.

13 I have watched Nick grow into a respectful,
14 polite young man. I have shared holidays, birthdays,
15 and other family events with him and his family.
16 Whenever I'm around Nick, he always conducts himself
17 with compassion, generosity, the desire to help
18 others, and resilience. Nick has always been
19 involved with his family business in some capacity.

20 When Nick's mother faced serious health issues
21 and surgeries, he stepped up to handle household
22 responsibilities. He provided emotional support to
23 his two younger siblings and his older brother, who
24 had already graduated and was working at the time.
25 He used laughter to lighten the seriousness of the
26 situation and went out of his way to make everyone
27 laugh. You can't help but laugh when you're around

1 him.

2 I have three children, two daughters and a son.
3 Nicholas is the same age as my oldest daughter,
4 Alyssa, with whom he attended high school. She is
5 learning disabled and was bullied in school. Nick
6 stood up for her and offered emotional support. I
7 have two grandchildren aged six months and three
8 years old. I have never felt uncomfortable in his
9 presence or witnessed any unusual behavior that
10 raised any concern regarding his interaction with
11 children.

12 I have been disabled for several years, and my
13 husband passed away eight years ago. Nick has always
14 helped me with a ride if needed, assistance with my
15 car, grocery shopping, or lifting and carrying heavy
16 items. Even during this case, he has continued to be
17 supportive with my needs, which I believe shows his
18 character and who he is as a person.

19 I attended most of the trial. Unfortunately, my
20 health issues prevented me from attending for a
21 couple of days. As I listened to the witnesses'
22 testimony, it only strengthened my continued support
23 for Nick, reaffirming my belief in who he truly is
24 beyond the statements made during the trial.

25 I respectfully ask that Your Honor consider the
26 lightest possible sentence if a new trial is not
27 granted. If Nick is to pursue an appeal, I kindly

1 ask that you consider bail pending appeal."

2 THE COURT: Thank you, Ms. Ward.

3 ATTY. BERKE: I have a letter from Heidi
4 Valorian, who's not present. If I can read that,
5 sir.

6 THE COURT: Yes. If you can just spell the last
7 name, please.

8 ATTY. BERKE: V-a-l-o-r-i-a-n. "My name is
9 Heidi Valorian, and I am married, expecting my first
10 child this December. I recently relocated to Oregon
11 with my husband, Jeff. Before moving here, we lived
12 in Danbury, Connecticut, and prior to that, I lived
13 in Carmel, New York. I have been a real estate agent
14 for five years, and I'm also a property investor.

15 I have known Nicholas Hall since 2021 through my
16 best friend, who was Victoria, Nick's sister, and I
17 also attended his trial. Over the years, I have come
18 to know Nick as a generally good-hearted person.
19 From the very beginning, he has always been friendly,
20 polite and caring, never failing to ask how I'm
21 doing. I've had the opportunity to see him at work
22 in his family business, where he consistently treats
23 others with kindness and respect. I have also
24 observed the way he treats his partner with great
25 affection and consideration, which speaks volumes
26 about his character.

27 Nick has shown warmth toward my own family and

1 even my dog, greeting them with affection and
2 patience. His generosity and helpfulness were
3 evident when he and his family assisted greatly with
4 my wedding preparations, something I remain deeply
5 grateful for. Over the years, I have spent time with
6 him at the Hall family farm on numerous occasions. I
7 recall many moments where Nick and his daughter [A.]
8 played joyfully with my nieces when they visited from
9 California, memories that highlight his devotion as a
10 father.

11 In my personal experience, Nick is a kind,
12 dependable, and compassionate individual. I hope you
13 will take into account the positive impact he has had
14 on those around him when considering his sentencing."

15 THE COURT: Thank you, Heidi Valorian.

16 ATTY. BERKE: Gina Santiago, she is present in
17 the court and asked that I read her letter.

18 THE COURT: Sure.

19 ATTY. BERKE: "Please allow me to introduce
20 myself and give a little background on who I am. My
21 name is Gina Santiago. I'm 36 years old. I live in
22 New Windsor, New York. I have three children, two
23 boys and one girl. My sons are Jayden, eleven years
24 old, and Logan, six months old, who was about four
25 months old during the trial, and my daughter Eliana,
26 who is eight. I have two stepsons: Christian, who is
27 17, and Jayden, who is 19. I have a husband and two

1 dogs. I live with my husband, our kids, and my
2 parents, who occupy a downstairs apartment. I
3 currently work as an executive assistant for my
4 father's private investigation firm. I have been
5 doing this for about seven years. Prior to this, I
6 was a medical assistant. I have worked in a range of
7 doctor's offices across the Hudson Valley and
8 Westchester areas for about ten years.

9 I have known Nicholas Hall for about 14 years.
10 I first met him through my boyfriend at the time, who
11 later became my husband, current ex-husband. I still
12 remember the first time I was introduced to him. He
13 was working at a gas station in Wallkill, New York in
14 approximately 2011. It was summertime, and Luke, my
15 ex-husband, and I went to the gas station so I could
16 meet his friend Nicholas. As we walked in, he saw
17 Luke and threw a bag of chips at him and ducked and
18 hit me instead. He was mortified and profusely
19 apologized, and we laughed about the incident and it
20 was a really great icebreaker. From that point on, I
21 knew he was a funny but compassionate person, and we
22 became friends.

23 I would attend dinner and holidays in the Hall
24 residence, bring my car to the family mechanic shop.
25 There were many times I would go to Nicholas's house.
26 We would all hang out together. Nicholas has met my
27 family. He has come to my house for dinner and

1 lunch.

2 Luke, my ex-husband, enlisted in the Marines,
3 and when he left, I was really having a hard time,
4 and Nicholas was there for me. He would call and
5 check in on me and make sure I was okay or if I
6 needed anything. He showed true friendship and
7 compassion and considered me like family. Soon after
8 Luke's departure, I found out I was pregnant with my
9 first child. We got married in 2013, and Nicholas
10 was the best man at my wedding, and I gave birth in
11 2014, and Nick was announced as the godfather to my
12 son. He has been there for both of my children.
13 They even call him Uncle Nick. To us, he is their
14 uncle and is part of our family.

15 I got divorced in 2020 and it was a very
16 difficult divorce, and Nick, being my husband's best
17 friend, never once disrespected me or made me feel
18 like our friendship was over. To this day, I still
19 bring my car to the shop, we speak pretty often, and
20 I was there every day for his trial while having a
21 newborn at home and traveling over an hour and a half
22 to show my support.

23 I know his daughter [A.] well and the mother of
24 his daughter. He is truly a wonderful person inside
25 and out. He would go out of his way to be a
26 kindhearted person. I am currently married to a new
27 partner. Nicholas is nothing but kind and welcoming

1 to my partner and his children. I have never felt
2 uncomfortable around Nicholas or having him around my
3 children, as he is a respectful, kind, helpful
4 person.

5 He is a young man with many dreams and
6 aspirations. He is a father, a godfather, an uncle,
7 a loving son, a brother, a wonderful friend to me and
8 many others, and truly a remarkable individual who
9 has laughter, hope, love, strength, and many other
10 positive qualities in life. I am aware of the
11 outcome of this trial. I'm asking the Court to have
12 leniency on him during sentencing."

13 THE COURT: Thank you.

14 ATTY. BERKE: I have a letter I'd like to read
15 from Eric Jennings. "My name is Eric Jennings. I'm
16 39 years old, and I have worked as an auto mechanic
17 for 22 years at the Hall family business. I'm
18 writing to share my perspective of Nicholas Hall, who
19 I've known since he was 10.

20 Over the past two decades, I've seen Nick grow
21 into a respectful, dependable, and hardworking man.
22 He has always treated me and my family with kindness
23 and consideration, and he's consistently been someone
24 I can count on both personally and professionally. I
25 have attended social gatherings with Nick outside of
26 work, birthdays, barbecues, and other occasions.
27 Nick has always gone above and beyond for me. He's

1 the first person to give you the shirt off his back.

2 Unfortunately, I was only able to attend the
3 trial one day in support of Nick and his family. It
4 was the first day of trial. We all prayed together
5 in the court's hallway just prior to the start,
6 standing together as friends and loved ones.

7 I have met Nick's daughters, [A.] and [W.], and
8 I have seen him in his role as a father. He adores
9 his children, and it's clear how much they mean to
10 him. I live in Monroe, New York with my fiancée
11 Erin, and together we are raising 12 children ranging
12 in age from 4 months to 23 years old. Nick has been
13 a positive presence in our lives and has always shown
14 genuine care for those around him. I hope my words
15 convey the respect and trust I have for Nick based on
16 many years of knowing him. Thank you for your time
17 and consideration."

18 ATTY. DAVIS: Just quickly, Your Honor, may we
19 redact the names W and A?

20 THE COURT: I'm sorry, I didn't catch that, but
21 yes.

22 ATTY. BERKE: I was intending on making that
23 request.

24 ATTY. DAVIS: I know you didn't mean to,
25 counsel.

26 THE COURT: So those are stricken.

27 ATTY. BERKE: Anna Tennant?

1 THE COURT: How do you spell the last name?

2 ATTY. BERKE: T-e-n-n-a-n-t.

3 THE COURT: Thank you. Thank you, Ms. Tennant.

4 MS. TENANT: Good afternoon, Honorable Judge.

5 I'm writing to express my strong support for Nicholas
6 Hall and to share with the Court the profound impact
7 that he's had on my life and the lives of many
8 others. I have known Nick for over 13 years, and
9 throughout that time have witnessed his selflessness,
10 kindness, and unwavering willingness to help others
11 in need.

12 Nick has never hesitated to offer assistance,
13 whether it was helping me care for my rescue animals,
14 rescuing injured animals himself, or aiding me during
15 some of my most difficult times. When my husband
16 abandoned me and I was left struggling to manage my
17 household and property, Nick was the first to step
18 forward. From installing air conditioners, helping
19 with my garden, and supporting my animal rescues, he
20 was always there without being asked twice. His
21 compassion has been a lifeline during moments where I
22 had no one else to turn to.

23 I've also seen Nick as a devoted and loving
24 father. He has fought tirelessly to remain in his
25 children's lives despite facing significant
26 challenges in his custody arrangements. I'm deeply
27 concerned that certain circumstances and evidence

1 were not presented in full during his trial, which I
2 believe has a direct impact on the outcome of his
3 case. It is my sincere hope that the Court will
4 allow a new trial so that all relevant evidence can
5 be heard. Nick is a man of integrity, loyalty, and
6 compassion. The thought of him facing a lengthy
7 prison sentence for a crime I firmly believe he did
8 not commit is heartbreaking and, in my opinion, a
9 miscarriage of justice.

10 Nick is more than a friend. He's like a son to
11 me. After losing my own son three years ago, Nick
12 was there to help me through the grief with love,
13 kindness, and support. He has been a steady presence
14 for his daughters, showing them gentleness and
15 attentiveness and unconditional love. I cannot
16 imagine him harming a child in any way.

17 Over the years, I have watched Nick grow into an
18 outstanding citizen and a productive member of
19 society. Despite enduring the trauma of his legal
20 battle in the past five years, he has remained
21 positive and compassionate towards others. During
22 this trial, I have drove daily from Monticello, New
23 York to Connecticut, three-hour each way trip, for
24 two weeks to show my unwavering belief in his
25 innocence.

26 Your Honor, the consequences of this case will
27 not only affect Nick, but also all those who love and

1 know him. If he is incarcerated, we will feel the
2 weight of that sentence. We will all feel the weight
3 of that sentence. Respectfully, I ask the Court to
4 grant Nick the opportunity of a new trial so that all
5 the evidence can be brought forward.

6 In closing, I ask that you not to take away the
7 best years of a good man's life without allowing him
8 the chance to prove his innocence. Justice should
9 not be about convenience. It should be about truth.
10 Thank you, Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Thank you, Ms. Tennant.

12 ATTY. BERKE: The next letter I have been asked
13 to read is from Luke Lutterodt. I'm sure I'm
14 mispronouncing that name. I will spell it: L-u-t-t-
15 e-r-o-d-t. "My name is Luke Lutterodt. I am a
16 United States Marine. I have been best friends in
17 Nicholas Hall for over 20 years. Throughout all the
18 years I have known Nick, he has been nothing but
19 kind, caring, and compassionate. He consistently
20 puts others before himself and is always willing to
21 help anyone in need. Nick is also the godfather to
22 my son Jayden. He has also been very close to my
23 family for years, joining us for church, helping us
24 feed the homeless on Sunday mornings, and being a
25 positive presence in our lives.

26 I know without a doubt that Nick is innocent and
27 does not deserve the sentencing that has been placed

1 upon him. I respectfully ask that you show mercy.
2 He's a devoted father, a loving son, a loyal friend
3 to many, and an overall good man who should never
4 have even placed in this situation. Thank you for
5 your time and consideration."

6 THE COURT: Thank you.

7 ATTY. BERKE: I have a letter from Daniel Leon.
8 It's spelled -- I'm sorry, Leen, L-e-e-n. "My name
9 is Daniel Leen, and I'm a retired state police
10 officer. I've known Nicholas Hall and his family for
11 over 20 years through their family business, which I
12 have trusted and relied upon for many years. Nick
13 and his family were entrusted to work on my personal
14 and family vehicles. I've always had complete
15 confidence in their honesty and professionalism.

16 I have known Nick since he was a child. I
17 watched him grow up in the business, and over the
18 years, I have seen him consistently display kindness,
19 respect, and a strong work ethic. He was polite,
20 reliable, and carried himself with maturity, always
21 treating customers with courtesy and care. These
22 qualities were consistent, not occasional, and they
23 left a lasting impression on me.

24 I understand Nicholas is now facing a very
25 serious charge. I'm aware that he continues to
26 assert his innocence. While I'm not here to question
27 the legal process or make assumptions about the case,

1 I feel it's important to share my long standing
2 experience with Nicholas. In all the years I've
3 known him, I never saw him -- I never saw anything to
4 suggest he was capable of what he has been accused
5 and convicted of. To the contrary, I always found
6 him to be a young man of integrity.

7 I hope this letter offers a fuller picture of
8 the person Nicholas has been to those of us who have
9 known him throughout his life. I respectfully ask
10 the Court to take his character and history into
11 account during the sentencing."

12 MS. GUNDERSON: Hello. First off, good
13 afternoon, Your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Good afternoon.

15 MS. GUNDERSON: My first name is Marissa, M-a-r-
16 i-s-s-a, last name is Gunderson, G-u-n-d-e-r-s-o-n.

17 THE COURT: Thank you.

18 MS. GUNDERSON: The reason -- first off, without
19 reading off of what I wrote, I put on this hat
20 because this belongs to Nick and he wears it every
21 single day, so I try to keep my pieces of him close
22 to me. Your Honor, my name is Marissa Gunderson, and
23 for the last 3 years, 10 months, and 27 days,
24 Nicholas Hall has been the one that I am proud to
25 love each and every day. And in those same 3 years,
26 10 months, and 27 days, his parents, siblings, close
27 friends, and everyone in between had graciously made

1 me feel like one of their own, giving me that kind of
2 love and support that matches when you feel like
3 you're in the right place that you are meant to be
4 in, like you belong no matter where you are in your
5 life.

6 I'm a New York native, born and raised in a
7 hardworking household, and my parents were not handed
8 anything in life other than life itself. It was my
9 father who gave me my work ethic and my mother who
10 gave me my patience and love of working with
11 children. I have worked with children since I was
12 one myself, beginning with your quintessential below
13 minimum wage jobs, working at summer camps and
14 operating birthday parties. The joy and purity that
15 children possess and the love they bring to the table
16 when they know you love them is why now, at the age
17 of 25, I'm on the road to receiving my master's,
18 already concluding my long, rigorous journey to begin
19 teaching in the first place.

20 I have worked with children in underprivileged,
21 low socioeconomic, and high-risk environments. There
22 are definitive statistics for it, but it doesn't take
23 rocket science to know that when you put children in
24 unstable situations, they start to act and think with
25 that same instability. I didn't have to grow to
26 appreciate my students, even though there were days
27 when curse words and threats from the mouths of nine-

1 and ten-year-olds were flying and sometimes we just
2 needed to get through the day. I have worked with
3 children who have lost loved ones to drugs, violence
4 in the community, and disease.

5 I have worked with children who have already
6 been victims of abuse in the broad spectrum that
7 abuse even is, and it's very sad but true that I have
8 also worked with children who are pathological liars.
9 Most of them had comorbidities; in other words, had
10 other diagnoses ranging from learning disabilities to
11 behavioral disturbances such as bipolar depression
12 and even personality disorders. But because they are
13 children, they were given the benefit of the doubt
14 from anyone who didn't know them as well as I or
15 their own parents or guardians.

16 I worked with a children [sic] this year,
17 actually, in the fifth grade, so she's about ten
18 eleven years old. She had moved from Texas after the
19 conclusion of a case where her stepfather had
20 sexually abused her, and so she moved back to New
21 York to be with her father and start a new life.

22 Around the month of April is when the boys and
23 girls in this age group had a maturation class. The
24 boys have theirs with the gym teacher, and the girls
25 go with the nurse. She basically gives them the
26 rundown on how our bodies grow, how to practice
27 proper hygiene, and they don't really go into

1 explicit things that unfortunately most of those kids
2 anticipated that they would be talking about that
3 day. One of the girls that day had apparently raised
4 her hand, and upon asking a question to the nurse,
5 asked one that you would not imagine a ten-year-old
6 would be capable of asking. But she did. She asked,
7 ever so calmly and innocently at the same time, if
8 you get raped on your period, could you get pregnant?
9 The other girls just gasped in embarrassment and
10 confusion, and the nurse was beside herself.

11 In the interim, the girl who had come from Texas
12 the same year to escape her old life had a complete
13 and utter breakdown. She was inconsolable to the
14 very people she trusted each and every day. To this
15 day, she cannot disclose the things that happened to
16 her, let alone in a clear and concise way. She
17 blacks out at times in class, staring off into space
18 as if lost in thought, unconsolable, incoherent.
19 Real trauma.

20 This has been one of the most emotionally driven
21 things I've written, so forgive me; I'm shaking. So
22 as difficult as it was to start and conceptualize,
23 I'm here today for an important cause and the most
24 important person in my life. For a long time, I was
25 able to repress the reality that the love of my life
26 would have to prove his innocence, and knew when that
27 time came that I would, without a shadow of a doubt,

1 be there for him. And it makes sense that this
2 beautiful group of believers behind me have given him
3 the same devotion because I know that Nick is the
4 kind of individual that would be doing the same thing
5 if any of us were in his shoes.

6 I have been in his presence and have witnessed
7 the true compassion in the man he is since our shared
8 beginning those 3 years, 10 months, and 27 days while
9 I was working for wage pay at the local Dunkin'
10 Donuts to make money while away at college. And I
11 know that this wasn't five, ten, fifteen years ago,
12 but I am and have always been somebody to catch on to
13 sincerity and, unfortunately, the lack of in some
14 very quickly, and I have been blessed to finally meet
15 a man who not only cherishes who I am and every
16 imperfect ounce of my being, but someone who looks
17 for a light, even if life appears dim.

18 At the time of writing this letter, Your Honor,
19 my mother was going to be in attendance. She was
20 going to be up here next to me, rubbing my back and
21 telling me that everything was going to be okay,
22 something that she had always done, and Nick would be
23 the person to carry the reins. Just about a month
24 ago, Nick was sitting by my side, holding my hand
25 firmly as I found out the tragic news that my mother
26 was diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer, clinging
27 onto hope in even in the midst of the stress in his

1 life. Leading up to this moment, he made sure that I
2 would spend as much time as possible with my mom. I
3 found myself in once again another predicament. I
4 literally cried in solidarity that night, knowing the
5 reality that I could be losing my mom and my best
6 friend both to circumstances that are out of my
7 control.

8 When we went to see her in the hospital, we
9 checked out the gift shop, and Nick found a little
10 cat chime to hang in her window so she could see a
11 glimmer in the sun. He wrote her name on a walker
12 that we both spotted being given away at the edge of
13 somebody's driveway after knowing the hospital
14 wouldn't give her one on request. He gave her a
15 chocolate rose that he didn't even realize was
16 chocolate, and she loved it. So simple and
17 beautiful, and even in the worst of times, he told my
18 mom that it is not the end and that she will be okay.
19 She wishes she could be here today, and so I have to
20 take a quick detour in my letter and make sure to
21 mention that she has and always will believe that
22 Nicholas Hall is an innocent man.

23 This is definitely something I could not have
24 had ChatGPT write. I'm pretty sure my computer would
25 have exploded, and by the end of this, you will think
26 that this letter is full of emotions clearly written
27 by someone stricken by love. Your Honor, you would

1 be correct, and I will proudly and honestly stand up
2 in front of you and say as someone who has been
3 through what I've been through in my life, naivety is
4 off the table.

5 I could not sit down and write this letter by
6 giving a handful of examples and scenarios that best
7 encapsulate how Nicholas Hall is as a person because
8 it's hard for me. It's not that it's challenging to
9 do so because there haven't been enough examples, but
10 after loving this man for as long as I did and after
11 the endless days and hours spent by his side, I feel
12 as though each and every moment I have had the
13 privilege to witness the genuine beauty in who he is.
14 I've been able to dish up essays with any information
15 you may ever need or want to believe in something.

16 At the end of the day, Your Honor, whatever you
17 believe is what you believe, and you may look at the
18 seemingly broken and clearly distraught woman and
19 feel sorry for her given the circumstances. But you
20 know what? I don't feel sorry for myself, and I do
21 not wish for anyone else to do so for me because
22 these 3 years, 10 months, and 27 days have been the
23 most fulfilling and extraordinary I've ever lived.
24 I've been exposed to what love should be between two
25 people, what a strong, loving family should look
26 like, and how much perseverance and passion I have
27 inside of me.

1 Nick was there for me during those treacherous
2 times in me coming home from student teaching,
3 flopping on the bed, sobbing, wondering how I was
4 going to be able to get through another day. But
5 God, I made it, and my person would sacrifice many
6 potential movie nights and times to just relax after
7 his long days of work to listen to my stories on how
8 my lessons went for the day and which kid made me
9 want to pull my hair out in my endless self-criticism
10 because I wanted to make sure that when I went to
11 school each day that I was making a difference. And
12 in any moment of doubt, Nick reminded me of how much
13 I was making a difference, and he didn't have to
14 witness it; he just knew.

15 My obstacles outweighed the imaginable, and no
16 matter what you can anticipate in this life, whether
17 it's loss, disease, or deceit, nothing and no one can
18 prepare you for when it happens. Well, Nick has been
19 by my side through all of those things, and I have
20 witnessed the same impact as he's made on me with so
21 many other people we have come across since the first
22 moment I was with him.

23 Embedded in all of my obstacles is the reality
24 that I can be really brutal towards myself. I
25 consider myself to be my own worst enemy. Nick has
26 helped make me feel things I've never felt before.
27 When I love, I love hard. It caught people off

1 guard. It has scared people before. But the thing
2 is, it's who I've always been. It's how I see life
3 as a whole, something short and precious and
4 heartbreaking and a gift.

5 There's a song I love from a musical, actually,
6 and the show is projected towards families, but it's
7 got some hard hitting lyrics, such as, "Every life is
8 unbelievably unlikely, the chances of existence
9 almost infinitely small. The most common thing in
10 life is life."

11 What I mean by that is that I'm more than aware
12 of mortality. I remember trembling from fear when I
13 stood over my grandma's open coffin, and she was just
14 laying there, not snoring with her glasses half on,
15 not tossing and turning. Nothing. And that's when I
16 knew that I must preserve whatever good I can find in
17 this world because I want to live a life -- live a
18 love filled, meaningful life. Sorry, I worded that
19 weirdly.

20 I went into relationships knowing it'd be
21 imperfect, that I myself would make mistakes. I go
22 into everything knowing the risk factors. But when
23 my heart was really broken for the first time, I knew
24 that that was the worst feeling in the world. The
25 people I share my time with in this life are so
26 important to me. Your Honor, without a shadow of a
27 doubt do I know that Nicholas Hall is so important to

1 me. But I digress.

2 As I mentioned before, this would be one of the
3 hardest things to put into words. I can stand still
4 staring into my bathroom mirror with tears pouring
5 down my face, professing to myself the perfect words
6 to say in this courtroom to best encapsulate the
7 worth that Nicholas Hall has, the impact he has made
8 not just on my life, but the imperfect but bona fide
9 human being that he is. I know in my heart that
10 Nicholas Hall is special and in a way that those who
11 know they cannot be trusted see those wonderful
12 qualities as a challenge, as a test of their own
13 character.

14 Life is complicated. It's hard when we find
15 ourselves at crossroads, not knowing where to go, as
16 if we're deer in the headlights. And even in the
17 midst of my own self-doubt, when I do find my
18 clarity, I am more than happy to be the woman who
19 stands beside him, to trudge through the darkness and
20 bask in joy.

21 I see the love in his eyes in the presence of
22 his daughters, and even though I was only there once
23 to meet W.T.H. when Nick's parents arranged one of
24 his visits to take place at a laser tag birthday
25 party for his nephew, I saw the same spark of love in
26 his eyes that I see each time I hear A.S. laugh
27 hysterically or call out to her daddy from her pink

1 princess Jeep. It warms my heart and gives me hope
2 for the bright future, without the excruciating
3 trials and tribulations he faces now, where the only
4 fears he has are the ones that each father, let alone
5 each person, faces.

6 Your Honor, Nicholas Hall's an individual worthy
7 of happiness because of all of the happiness he has
8 brought to people, even on the smallest scale. I've
9 witnessed people look and feel hopeless, and then
10 after an unprovoked conversation with Nick, even if
11 he's just being his usual goofy self, it's the
12 positivity that he exudes unto others that has made
13 those same hopeless individuals depart with the
14 brightest of smiles and even a thank you. I
15 understand the heart that resides with those thank
16 yous because I myself feel that way each and every
17 day having Nick in my life. We've been devoted to
18 one another since the beginning, and we've shared our
19 hopes and dreams of one day getting married and me
20 giving him the opportunity to know what it's like to
21 be a dad to his child, no matter what day of the
22 week.

23 To close off, I want to show you my first and
24 only tattoo that I have on my left forearm. I
25 learned very early on in my life that what you choose
26 to put on your body is a commitment, not just a
27 commitment to the actual artist putting the ink into

1 your skin, but to yourself as the person carrying the
2 words or the image each and every breath you take.
3 Mine is clearly half a heart, to which Nick shares
4 the other half. You might not be able to see it
5 because the sleeve's not up.

6 There's a story behind the image inside, though.
7 You see, prior to graduating college, I was knees
8 deep in my education, and Nick and I were living
9 together. He was holding us financially stable the
10 entire time, and so when we had that shared time,
11 just as we did our first few weeks together, we would
12 just drive and explore. We stumbled upon this spot
13 along the Hudson River that's connected to a state
14 park. So you have the option to hike in different
15 directions, picnic with your family, or just find a
16 cozy spot along the water to rest your mind.

17 It was a warm summer day, and we got so lucky to
18 have found a desolate spot along the river coated in
19 enormous rocks, sea glass, and you can only hear the
20 nature around you. He reached down to grab two flat
21 stones and asked me if I had ever skipped stones
22 before. I said that, funny enough, I've tried a
23 million times but could never get one to skip. He
24 said, "Oh, well, today we're going to get one to
25 skip."

26 I remember him showing me my form, how I should
27 hold my arm at the right angle, and he said, "Don't

1 be afraid to throw it as hard as you can and let it
2 skim across the water." After a few attempts, I'll
3 never forget watching the stone I just released jump
4 across the water two times and sink. After that,
5 Nick was more preoccupied about finding stones for me
6 to throw than practicing himself.

7 The day was simple and pure, and as
8 overcomplicated his life was even in that very moment
9 -- because, Your Honor, as long as I've known him,
10 he's been going through this. With the possibility
11 of a day like this, Nick was able to form beautiful,
12 pure memories, as he's managed to do every day over
13 the last five years, let alone his entire life.

14 Now, I'm not religious, but I do believe in
15 divinity. I actually grew up Catholic. I had to take
16 a class on the Bible in college to count for English
17 credits, so I was able to recount a lot of what I
18 lost over the years since being a church kid. Your
19 Honor, in case you may not know this information, it
20 is said in the Bible that Jesus himself was an
21 innocent man wrongly accused. Jesus the innocent one
22 was betrayed, unjustly rejected, and falsely
23 condemned by the guilty, who sentenced him to be
24 crucified as a criminal, and he believed in truth,
25 and so do I.

26 I also believe in innocence, I believe in
27 sincerity, I believe in facts, I believe in

1 compassion, I believe in love, and I believe in my
2 best friend. Your Honor, I ask for you to consider
3 the reasonable doubt that was most certainly
4 presented in Nick's case because, as you know,
5 reasonable doubt is always present when the accused
6 is innocent. I humbly ask that you grant his request
7 for appeal and allow him to work towards presenting
8 his case further in a way that he wasn't able to
9 before.

10 This was a sentence I was gulping while writing,
11 but I must also humbly ask that you please propose
12 granting my best friend a second chance of proving
13 himself with a new trial or granting him an appeal
14 with bond. Please do something that in your heart
15 you know is right and just for someone who is
16 innocent. Because we know he is. Your Honor, the
17 love of my life is innocent, and nothing will sway me
18 to believe otherwise. Thank you for your time.

19 THE COURT: Thank you, Ms. Gunderson.

20 ATTY. BERKE: Your Honor, Nicholas Hall's
21 brother, Mitchel Hall, could not be here, but his
22 brother Chris wished to read his letter on his
23 behalf.

24 THE COURT: So this is a letter from Mitchel
25 Hall but read by Chris Hall?

26 ATTY. BERKE: Correct.

27 THE COURT: Thank you. You may proceed. Thank

1 you.

2 MR. CHRISTOPHER HALL: Good afternoon, Your
3 Honor, on my brother's behalf. He couldn't be here
4 because of personal and work reasons out of state.
5 "My name is Mitchel Hall, and I am the brother of
6 Nicholas Hall. I currently reside at 594 River Road
7 Jacksboro, Tennessee, and I am employed at Road Works
8 as a full-depth reclamation technician, where I have
9 worked for over a year. Prior to relocating to
10 Tennessee, I worked at my family's business. I have
11 lived between Tennessee and New York for roughly six
12 years. Unfortunately, I am unable to attend Nick's
13 sentencing hearing in person, but I want to express
14 my unwavering support for him and his continued claim
15 of innocence.

16 Growing up, our family spent much of our time
17 camping, traveling, and enjoying outdoor activities.
18 We often gathered with extended family and friends
19 for social events. Nick was always smiling, quick to
20 lend a hand, and had a natural ability to make people
21 laugh. In school, he was well loved, had many
22 friends, and was often called the class clown.

23 It was because of Nick that I met my fiancée
24 Whitney, whom I have been with since 2018. He joined
25 me on a trip to Tennessee for a car event, and during
26 that trip I met Whitney. We later attended Nick's
27 wedding, and I was living in New York when my nieces,

1 A.S. and W.T.H. were born. I have seen Nick as a
2 devoted father, showing love, responsibility, and
3 care.

4 Nick was always the one I was closest to growing
5 up. Between the laughs, playful banter, and playing
6 video games together, we built an unreal bond.
7 Seeing him grow from a crazy goofball to the amazing
8 person and father he's become couldn't be more
9 amazing. Seeing him with his kids and how much they
10 love him and never want to leave when they had to was
11 amazing to witness as well. He has always been a
12 loving, amazing father, and I have no doubt he will
13 continue to be.

14 Nick has always been the brother I've been
15 closest with, and I look forward to every talk I get
16 to have with him. He always does so much to make
17 sure everyone around him is happy, laughing, and
18 never has any problems. If anyone ever had a
19 problem, he's the first one there. He's always been
20 dependable and outgoing, and to this day, I know if I
21 ever needed anything, he'd be there.

22 For as long as I can remember, Nick has shown
23 unwavering integrity, loyalty, and kindness. It is
24 sincerely hoped that the Court will weigh his
25 lifelong character and his steadfast claim of
26 innocence when making its decisions in this matter.
27 Thank you for your time and for considering my

1 perspective. Sincerely, Mitchel Hall."

2 THE COURT: Thank you. Thank you for reading on
3 behalf of your brother.

4 ATTY. BERKE: Your Honor, I have a letter that
5 I've been asked to read from Michael Taylor. "I'm
6 writing this letter to express my heartfelt support
7 for Nicholas Hall, whom I've had the privilege of
8 knowing for the past 15 years. I've known Nicholas
9 since he was a teenager, and over the years, I've
10 watched him grow into a thoughtful, respectful, and
11 responsible young man.

12 I have been married for 28 years and am a parent
13 to a wonderful son. I work as a telecommunications
14 professional. I've been employed in the field for 25
15 years. My work has taught me the importance of
16 responsibility, integrity, and consistency, qualities
17 I also recognize in Nicholas.

18 From the start, Nicholas has always carried
19 himself with humility and sincerity. I remember one
20 instance when he helped organize a neighborhood
21 cleanup after a storm, gathering friends and supplies
22 without being asked. Another time he volunteered to
23 drive an elderly neighbor to doctor's appointments
24 for several weeks when her family couldn't. These
25 kind of gestures have been typical of his nature.

26 Most recently, I witnessed a powerful moment
27 while sitting in the gallery of trial involving

1 Nicholas. Despite the stress and emotion of the
2 situation, I watched him carry himself with quiet
3 dignity. The courtroom was emotionally charged, and
4 at times the atmosphere became particularly tense due
5 to a member of the prosecution's family repeatedly
6 turning toward our section with visible agitation and
7 expressions of anger.

8 Additionally, it was concerning to observe what
9 appeared to be a member of the prosecution's family
10 providing nonverbal cues or direction to the
11 plaintiff during the proceedings. This behavior
12 created a sense of discomfort among those of us
13 seated nearby. Throughout it all, Nicholas remained
14 composed and respectful. His ability to maintain
15 professionalism under such pressure was a clear
16 reflection of his character and the seriousness with
17 which he approaches the situation at hand.

18 Whether offering support to friends during tough
19 times, helping with community projects, or simply
20 being someone others can rely on, Nicholas has always
21 shown himself to be caring and conscientious. I have
22 seen him navigate life's challenges with grace and
23 accountability, including when he took responsibility
24 for a mistake at work and made things right, even
25 though it would have been easier to deflect blame.

26 No one is without flaws, but I know the man
27 Nicholas is and, more importantly, the man he still

1 is becoming. I respectfully ask the Court to
2 consider this letter as a sincere reflection of his
3 character and the potential he continues to hold.
4 Thank you for your time and considering my words."

5 THE COURT: Thank you. Do you have many more?

6 ATTY. BERKE: Yes.

7 THE COURT: And the only reason I'm asking this
8 is my staff has been here since the trial began at
9 10:00, and they are entitled to lunch and I'm not
10 going to take that from them.

11 ATTY. BERKE: There are eight more.

12 THE COURT: There are eight more? Okay, so what
13 we're going to do now -- I think it's probably
14 appropriate to take a break at this point. I'll ask
15 Madam Clerk if you could please notify counsel --
16 well, I know there's members of the State here --
17 that I'm bumping back the trial until 3:00 at the
18 earliest.

19 So with that, I apologize to everyone, but --
20 and here's how we're going to proceed out of court.
21 I'm going to ask that everyone in the family over
22 here in the jury box go out the door first, and then
23 everyone else could follow thereafter. So with that,
24 I'm going to stay on the bench, but we'll recess for
25 lunch.

26 (A recess was taken. Court resumes)

27 THE COURT: Good afternoon, everyone. Please be

1 seated. Thank you. We're back -- I'm going to wait.
2 We're back on the sentencing of Nicholas Hall,
3 CR2336785. Attorney Berke, thank you, and I hope you
4 appreciate and understand that I needed to break for
5 lunch.

6 ATTY. BERKE: Certainly, sir.

7 THE COURT: But you may proceed.

8 ATTY. BERKE: Christopher Hall?

9 THE COURT: Thank you.

10 MR. CHRISTOPHER HALL: Afternoon, Your Honor.
11 This is my own letter this time. My name is
12 Christopher Hall, and I am the older brother of
13 Nicholas Hall. I currently work as a geotechnical
14 driller, and prior to that, I was employed in my
15 family's business. Nicholas is my younger brother,
16 and I have attended most of his trial alongside my
17 wife Nicole. I continue to support him
18 wholeheartedly in his fight for his liberty and his
19 efforts to clear his name.

20 The stories and memories we have together are
21 priceless. From sports growing up, skateboarding,
22 BMX, racing quads, video games, making music, editing
23 videos, the list goes on. My brother has always been
24 in my corner and highly supportive with anything I've
25 ever done, the same as I.

26 I have witnessed Nicholas's positive influence
27 on those around him, especially in his role as an

1 uncle to my son Colton, who is now ten years old.
2 Nicholas has always been actively involved in
3 Colton's life, and their bond is something I deeply
4 value. His patience, kindness, and ability to
5 connect with my son are clear examples of his
6 character.

7 I sincerely hope the Court will take into
8 account my brother's character, his dedication to his
9 family, and the unwavering support he has from those
10 who know him best in making decisions in this case.
11 Thank you for your time and consideration.

12 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Hall.

13 ATTY. BERKE: Victoria Hall?

14 MS. VICTORIA HALL: Hello.

15 THE COURT: Hello.

16 MS. VICTORIA HALL: My name is Victoria Hall.
17 I'm the youngest and only sister of Nicholas Hall. I
18 can't do this.

19 THE COURT: Thank you.

20 ATTY. BERKE: "I'm the youngest and only sister
21 of Nicholas Hall. I'm 26 years old and have worked
22 in the real estate field for the past five years. I
23 write this letter with deep sincerity to speak about
24 the brother I have known my entire life, someone I
25 love, respect, and continue to believe in.

26 Nick is not only my brother, he is my supporter,
27 my best friend, and someone I could always turn to.

1 He is someone who's seen me at my worst and still
2 loves me unconditionally. From as early as I can
3 remember, my brother guided, protected, and supported
4 me through everything, and he will always be someone
5 I look up to. He has made me laugh during difficult
6 times, encouraged me when I doubted myself, and has
7 consistently been there without question. I've
8 always known him to be a very selfless person with a
9 good heart and someone who helps others without
10 hesitation.

11 Growing up as the only girl in a family with
12 three older brothers was certainly a challenge, but
13 it also came with a deep sense of safety. I always
14 knew I was never alone. I always had someone to call
15 if I needed anything. My brothers, especially Nick,
16 were my protectors, watching out for me in ways I
17 didn't realize while pushing me to be strong and
18 stand my ground. That upbringing shaped who I am
19 today, and Nicholas was at the center of it all.

20 As a teenager and a young girl, I had many
21 sleepovers with friends at our home. Every stage of
22 life from childhood into adulthood, I have observed
23 Nick's interactions with children and others. I can
24 honestly say that I have never seen anything that
25 would raise concern, especially considering the
26 allegations in this case. My experience has only
27 ever reflected a caring, respectful, and responsible

1 person who values the well-being of others.

2 I've had Nicholas by my side my whole life as my
3 brother but also a true best friend. He supported me
4 through heartbreak and personal hardship, including
5 one of the hardest times in my life, my divorce. He
6 showed me strength when I felt weak and reminded me
7 who I was when I had forgotten. He reminded me that
8 I deserved happiness and helped me believe in it
9 again.

10 I share these things because I want to provide
11 context and perspective on the man I know beyond
12 these allegations. Your Honor, I ask you from the
13 deepest part of my heart to please consider the whole
14 person my brother is, the person he has always been
15 to me and to so many others.

16 Nick is a father to two beautiful daughters, and
17 I've witnessed firsthand his deep love and commitment
18 to them. He is also the most amazing uncle to my
19 seven-month-old daughter, Penelope Rose. Even under
20 the weight of this situation, he continues to try to
21 show up for his family however he can. He means so
22 much to us, to me, and he still has so much more to
23 give to this world.

24 I have been through this situation with Nick
25 since day one, and I will continue to stand by him.
26 He has maintained his innocence in pursuing post-
27 conviction relief, and I believe it is his right to

1 do so. Regardless of what happens, I hope my words
2 help paint a fuller picture of who Nicholas Hall
3 truly is: a loving, supportive, selfless man who has
4 a profound impact on my life and the lives of so many
5 others."

6 MS. VICTORIA HALL: Thank you.

7 THE COURT: Thank you.

8 ATTY. BERKE: Mr. Golino has asked to read a
9 letter that was submitted by Glenn Schaeffer.

10 THE COURT: So it's being read by Mr. Golino?

11 ATTY. BERKE: It's written by Glenn Schaeffer,
12 S-c-h-a-e-f-f-e-r.

13 MR. GOLINO: "Dear Honorable Judge McShane, I am
14 writing this letter today to share my deep concern
15 and support for Nicholas Hall. I've known Nicholas
16 and his family for over 27 years. We have raised our
17 families side by side. As our children have grown
18 through the years, Nicholas has always shown respect
19 and empathy for everyone he has encountered during
20 his years.

21 We have raised our daughter with the same family
22 values that the Halls have done with their three sons
23 and their daughter. Each one of their children have
24 always displayed respect and courtesy to our family
25 and to the town residents where we reside. Nicholas
26 and his family are well known in our town for the
27 reasons of providing community service when required,

1 not only for homeowners, but also for our
2 municipality.

3 I have watched Nicholas grow from a child into a
4 young man and promising adult that his family can be
5 proud of. Nicholas has always worn his heart on his
6 sleeve. I have watched him love and nurture his
7 children over the years. I'm sure you realize that,
8 being a lifelong neighbor and raising our children
9 together, there are many instances that I would
10 recite for Your Honor.

11 Being an honorable judge in your capacity, you
12 have seen many cases come through your courtroom. I
13 was personally there every day for his trial. I
14 witnessed many emotions from the entire courtroom.
15 Many things were said in respect to Nicholas's
16 character, and never once has Nicholas been
17 disrespectful. Your Honor, you have watched Nicholas
18 throughout his trial. He always displayed
19 professionalism and courtesy to you, the jury, and
20 the prosecution and all to the family members on both
21 sides of the trial. This is truly a testament of who
22 Nicholas is as a man.

23 I have been a local builder in our community as
24 well as Orange County for 32 years. I have made
25 families' dreams come to reality. Working in this
26 capacity, I've met many parents and siblings. The
27 individuals that had the pleasure of meeting Nicholas

1 had always spoken kindly about his personality and
2 aura. Nicholas has always taken accountability for
3 his actions, no matter what the capacity might have
4 been.

5 Your Honor, I know you have a challenging job
6 ahead of you. Please know that Nicholas is a good
7 man, a loving father, and a devoted member to the
8 Hall family. The members of the Hall family are very
9 close and they live within the same town. Honorable
10 Judge McShane, please consider this letter as a
11 testament of Nicholas Hall's character. In advance,
12 your time and attention are greatly appreciated.
13 Respectfully, Glenn Schaeffer."

14 THE COURT: Thank you. Thank you, sir, for
15 reading for Mr. Schaeffer.

16 ATTY. BERKE: I was asked to read a letter from
17 Magda Hunt, M-a-g-d-a, last name H-u-n-t. "I'm
18 writing to support Nicholas Hall, the defendant in
19 this case. Let me introduce myself. My name is
20 Maggie Hunt, and I've been self-employed as a
21 seamstress for 40 years. I'm retired from West Point
22 as a contract officer for 28 years.

23 My late husband is Judge Kevin Hunt, who
24 presided as town justice in our hometown of
25 Shawangunk for roughly 30 years. He retired from the
26 Department of Corrections after serving 27 years as a
27 deputy superintendent. He also owned and operated

1 Hunt Tile and Ceramics for over 30 years. During his
2 lifetime, he served on the environmental commission,
3 as a town councilman, town supervisor, and as an
4 Ulster County legislator. He was a pillar of our
5 community. We were married for more than 15 years.

6 I had met Nick and the Halls through my husband,
7 Kevin Hunt, who had known the Halls and Nicholas for
8 over 25 years. He and Nick's father had met in the
9 Lions Club in the early 2000s. My husband was the
10 judge who married Nick and [G.] in December 2018. We
11 offered to host their wedding at our home. Kevin and
12 I were surprised that none of [G.]'s family attended
13 the wedding. Her mother did attend virtually from
14 California.

15 When I think of Nick, I think of a very
16 respectful young man, constructive, always asking to
17 see who needs help. I trusted Nick enough that I
18 rented him an apartment in my home. He was always
19 good to help with taking out the garbage, shoveling
20 snow, feeding my cat, and asking if I needed
21 anything. Always a good morning or hello. I would
22 let him move in with me anytime. He was a great
23 tenant and is a wonderful person. Sometimes his
24 daughter [A.] would visit with her mother or
25 grandmother, and I'd look out the window and see the
26 big smile on his face. He's a good father.

27 When these allegations were made, my husband and

1 I were very shocked. We had socialized with [G.],
2 Nick, and the girls many times. We never observed
3 any behavior that raised any type of suspicion
4 regarding Nicholas in his role as a stepfather or
5 father. My husband had stated that, given his career
6 in the Department of Corrections, he had been very
7 familiar with people incarcerated for these type of
8 charges. He had said to me numerous times he did not
9 believe Nick would have done any harm to a child. He
10 did not believe the allegations. We were aware at
11 the time of Nick and his wife's separation. We were
12 also aware of her demands regarding the custody of
13 their child W.T.H.

14 During their short marriage, my observations of
15 Nick as a stepfather and father were that he was
16 attentive, he adored the children, and the children
17 adored him. His daughter W.T.H. was the apple of his
18 eye. He was a proud dad. We shared many holidays
19 and family functions with the Halls, which included
20 Nick and G.T. on many occasions. Those functions
21 also included my children and grandchildren.

22 I have two stepsons -- two sons, a stepson, and
23 a stepdaughter. I have six grandchildren. He was
24 around my grandchildren. I never felt uneasy or that
25 they were in any danger. Neither my husband nor I
26 ever observed anything that would cause concern
27 regarding Nick. He has always conducted himself with

1 humility and compassion.

2 I ask Your Honor to please consider what I have
3 shared as a reflection of Nick's character and who he
4 truly is as a person. It is our hope that this
5 letter provides valuable insight for Your Honor as
6 the sentence for Nick is determined." Your Honor, to
7 the extent that I referenced G.T. or anyone else, I
8 ask that be stricken and replaced.

9 THE COURT: Thank you.

10 ATTY. DAVIS: Thank you.

11 THE COURT: Yes, I didn't want to interrupt.
12 Thank you.

13 ATTY. BERKE: This is a letter I received from
14 Lisa Savitt. "My name is Lisa Savitt. I'm writing
15 this letter in support of Nicholas Hall." Savitt is
16 spelled S-a-v-i-t-t. "I have known Nick for the past
17 17 years. I first met Nicholas in October 2008
18 through his mother when he was only 15 years old. At
19 the time, I was living in Connecticut prior to
20 relocating to Florida in the winter of 2016.

21 Over the years, I had many opportunities to
22 spend time with Nicholas and his family during
23 birthday parties, holidays, and other family
24 gatherings. I also attended a number of fundraisers
25 with Nicholas and his family, which allowed me to
26 observe him in both personal and community settings.
27 He was always helpful on our fundraiser walk for

1 Chiari malformation. His family would drive to
2 Connecticut to support us. He helped with whatever I
3 asked him to do.

4 Through these interactions, I came to know
5 Nicholas as a respectful, kind, and well-mannered
6 individual. He has an infectious, bubbly personality
7 that naturally draws people in and brings a sense of
8 joy to any setting. He consistently displayed warmth
9 towards his family members and was courteous and
10 friendly with others. I never had to worry about
11 him. He would make friends even in situations where
12 he didn't know many people. He carried himself with
13 sincerity and maturity even from a young age.
14 Nicholas has always impressed me as someone who
15 values family, connection, and community.

16 I offer this letter to speak to the positive
17 character I have witnessed firsthand over nearly two
18 decades of knowing him. It is sincerely hoped that
19 the Court will consider the information presented in
20 this letter when making sentencing decisions
21 regarding Nicholas. Thank you, Lisa Savitt."

22 The next letter is from Shanon Ingrassia, I-n-g-
23 r-a-s-s-i-a. "My name is Shanon Ingrassia, I live at
24 5 Van Alst Road, Montgomery, New York. I have served
25 as a funeral director at RLHI Funeral Home for the
26 past 18 years. I have been married to my husband,
27 Anthony Ingrassia, for 17 years, and we are blessed

1 with two daughters, Allison and Sara.

2 I have known Nicholas for his entire life. His
3 mother Darla has been my close friend since grade
4 school, and my mother was her godmother. Over the
5 decades, our families has been closely connected,
6 sharing countless milestones, celebrations, and
7 challenges together.

8 From the time he was young, Nick stood out to me
9 as the most respectful, mature, and considerate of
10 Darla's children. He consistently demonstrated
11 integrity, responsibility, and kindness, qualities
12 that have only strengthened with age. I have always
13 valued my conversations with him, finding him to be
14 thoughtful, grounded, and sincere.

15 Nick is also a deeply devoted father to his
16 daughters, A and W.T.H. His love for them is
17 profound, and he is hoping to have the opportunity in
18 the future to have a more active role in their lives.
19 I know how much he misses them during this difficult
20 time. The pain of that separation is clear, but so
21 is his determination to remain positive and hopeful.

22 I want to express my unwavering belief in Nick's
23 steadfast claim of innocence. Knowing him for as
24 long as I have, I cannot reconcile the accusations
25 against him with the man I know, one who values
26 honesty, loyalty, and family above all else. I
27 believe in his character. I believe in the truth of

1 his words.

2 Your Honor, I respectfully ask that you consider
3 the decades of consistent character, responsibility,
4 and compassion that Nick has shown to those around
5 him. He is a good man, a loving father, and someone
6 whose life still holds promise for his family and
7 community. Thank you for your time and
8 consideration." Robert Hall?

9 MR. ROBERT HALL: I'll try to do this. Morning,
10 Your Honor. My name is Robert Hall, and I'm the
11 proud father of Nicholas Hall. My wife and I have
12 been together for 39 years, raising four children and
13 now blessed with four grandchildren, two of whom are
14 Nicholas's daughters. I have owned and operated an
15 auto repair center for 29 years, where Nicholas has
16 worked for most of his life. Customers regularly
17 compliment me on his politeness, kindness, and his
18 humor. He is an asset to the business, and I hope
19 someday he can take it over. From the day Nicholas
20 was born --

21 THE COURT: Take your time, please.

22 MR. ROBERT HALL -- his smile lit up the room.
23 He grew up in a loving, closeknit family, enjoying
24 camping, snowboarding, and four wheeling. He has
25 always been honest, compassionate, protective of
26 those around him. He is a kind man. He's the kind
27 of man who will stop and help an injured animal,

1 nurse it back to health, and release it, something he
2 has done many times. His relationship with his
3 siblings, Chris, Mitchel, and Victoria, are a strong
4 and unbreakable bond. Most importantly, Nick is a
5 devoted and loving father whose daughters light up
6 when they see him.

7 When Nicholas was married to [G.], I saw
8 firsthand the bond they shared and he shared with her
9 daughters, L.T. and S.T. He treated them as his own,
10 playing with them in our yard, pushing them on the
11 tree swing, spending quality time together. From the
12 beginning, we welcomed them into our family.
13 Unfortunately, I saw concerning behavior from [G.],
14 such as allowing her girls to watch inappropriate,
15 sexual, and profane content on TikTok, MTV music
16 videos, and Teen Mom. When I objected, she told me
17 they were allowed to do that and dismissed my
18 concerns.

19 Nicholas's marriage to [G.] eventually broke
20 down, and she filed for divorce, requesting sole and
21 legal physical custody of [W.] -- I'm sorry, W.T.
22 When Nicholas refused to sign the papers, [G.] told
23 me directly if he didn't agree, he would never see
24 his daughter again. Soon after that, he was arrested
25 and charged with these allegations. I believe that
26 is the whole motive behind this for the custody
27 dispute. Nicholas has never been in trouble with the

1 law before this case, and I truly believe he is
2 innocent.

3 During the trial, I witnessed two women coaching
4 [L.], nodding their head yes and no in response to
5 questions. Even after the marshals told them to
6 stop, they continued. I also remember Your Honor
7 acknowledging in the court that you made a mistake
8 when the jury requested to see the divorce papers,
9 and I respectfully ask that this mistake does not be
10 the reason my son loses his freedom, his daughters,
11 and they lose their father.

12 I truly have faith in God, and I am by no means
13 ashamed to show it, display it, or own it. God is
14 the only thing that I have faith in, and He has never
15 let us down. Nicholas has shown nothing but respect
16 for the justice system. He has never missed a court
17 date, failed to sign in at bail bondsman. He has
18 continued to pay child support for W.T. and A.S.
19 without complaint, despite being kept from them. His
20 daughters deserves to their father in their lives.
21 We as a family deserve to have our son, our brother
22 back home.

23 Your Honor, you don't personally know my son,
24 but I ask you to see him through the eyes of those
25 who love him. Nicholas is kind, caring, and deeply
26 devoted to his family. He does not deserve the
27 guilty verdict he received, and I believe the appeal

1 process will show the truth if given the chance. I
2 respectfully and urgently ask you to grant bond
3 pending appeal so Nicholas can be with his family
4 while he fights for justice. Thank you for your
5 consideration.

6 THE COURT: Thank you, sir.

7 ATTY. DAVIS: Your Honor, I just ask that G.T.'s
8 name be stricken. I think L.T.'s name was said too.

9 THE COURT: Thank you. I did not want to
10 interrupt.

11 ATTY. DAVIS: Me neither.

12 ATTY. BERKE: Your Honor, as well, W.T.H. was
13 referenced.

14 THE COURT: Okay. Sorry, I missed that.

15 MS. DARLA HALL: Good afternoon, Your Honor.

16 THE COURT: Good afternoon.

17 MS. DARLA HALL: My name is Darla Hall, and I am
18 the mother of Nicholas Hall. I'm writing to express
19 my support for my son. My husband and I have been
20 together for 39 years, and I am blessed to have four
21 children, Christopher, Nicholas, Mitchel, and
22 Victoria. Nicholas is my second born child, and he
23 is also the father of two of my four grandchildren:
24 Colton, who is ten; A.S., who is six; W.T.H., who is
25 five, and Penelope, who is seven months old.

26 In light of the fact that I did not testify on
27 behalf of Nicholas and share with the jury and Your

1 Honor who he truly is, I'm taking this opportunity to
2 share my observations that pertain to this case as
3 well as give you a broader picture of who Nicholas
4 truly is. He is not merely a defendant in this case.
5 He's a caring, loving, compassionate father, friend,
6 brother, and son.

7 Nicholas has consistently demonstrated his
8 willingness to assist family and friends in times of
9 need, whether by helping with moving, pet sitting,
10 providing transportation, troubleshooting computer
11 issues, or just offering emotional support. He is
12 known for his infectious smile and vibrant
13 personality, often bringing joy to social gatherings.
14 Moreover, I frequently receive praise from friends
15 regarding his respectfulness and politeness.
16 Nicholas has a profound love for animals and has gone
17 to great lengths to assist those in distress. For
18 instance, he rescued an injured hawk, a baby rabbit
19 under attack, and a white dove whom he named
20 Dovinchy.

21 Nicholas possesses a passion for music and art.
22 He received music lessons as a child and has
23 experience playing the piano, guitar, French horn,
24 and African drums. He enjoys drawing and anything
25 that fosters creativity. His passion for media work
26 has been evident. He's documented the story of an
27 individual affected by an environmental hazard

1 resulting from a utility company's misconduct. He has
2 been honored with invitations to galleries in
3 Manhattan to document art shows featuring world
4 renowned artists. He has created media content for a
5 nonprofit organization that employs horses for
6 therapeutic purposes.

7 I would also like to share my observations
8 regarding his role as a husband to G.T. and
9 stepfather to her children. When Nicholas and G.T.
10 approached me with their desire to marry in November
11 of 2018, I had reservations. They had intended to
12 elope but needed his birth certificate, which I had.

13 I took the opportunity to sit down with them in
14 my dining room to express my concerns. I informed
15 G.T. that Nicholas was not in a position to provide
16 for a wife and two children, particularly since he
17 had just learned that he was going to be a father
18 himself. His ex-girlfriend had informed him of her
19 pregnancy in September. G.T. assured me that she was
20 financially stable, and she highlighted that Nicholas
21 provided emotional support in various ways, despite
22 his financial limitations. Although I felt uneasy, I
23 respected their independence as adults and chose to
24 support my son's decision to marry her. We welcomed
25 G.T. and her children into our family, with her
26 referring to us as Mom and Dad and her children
27 calling us Grammy and Grandpa.

1 We were subsequently blessed with W.T.H. from
2 their short marriage. She is at the center of this
3 case and stands to lose her biological father. Nick
4 Hall's ex-wife has made significant efforts to
5 replace him with her ex-husband, Checho, and her
6 partner, Brooklyn, whom she refers to as Daddy and
7 Momma Brook. My granddaughter has told me that she
8 has two daddies and two mommies.

9 It is essential to note that G.T. informed the
10 Department of Children and Protective Services, DCF,
11 of her intention to terminate Nicholas's parental
12 rights, an identical demand that she made filed [sic]
13 for the divorce in March of 2020, two months prior to
14 the allegations arose [sic]. Nicholas expressed to
15 G.T. that he would never consent to relinquish his
16 parental rights regarding their daughter. She sought
17 sole legal and physical custody, and this constitutes
18 motive behind the entire case.

19 The jury appeared to recognize this motive when
20 they requested the divorce records, which Your Honor
21 acknowledged by stating, "Folks, I made a mistake."
22 I believe this moment significantly influenced the
23 jury's deliberations and ultimately the verdict. Had
24 the jury been allowed to review the dissolution of
25 marriage filed on March 10, 2020 as well as the
26 finalized divorce records which state he would lose
27 his parenting time if he loses his liberty, they

1 would have observed that G.T. initially sought sole
2 legal custody with primary physical custody over two
3 months before the allegations emerged.

4 This contradicts her testimony, in which she
5 stated that Nicholas was a good father, they
6 maintained a positive coparenting relationship after
7 their separation. This begs the question, why, if
8 that were the case, would she seek sole primary
9 custody?

10 Ironically, the date on which the alleged act
11 was disclosed coincided with the birthday of
12 Nicholas's other child, May 21st. This was also the
13 first day that Nicholas posted a picture of himself
14 with his other child, A.S., on social media. Is that
15 just a coincidence?

16 G.T. stated in her initial report to the police
17 that her daughter made this confession to her
18 friend's daughter while they were swimming at her
19 friend's pool on May 21st. However, her story
20 changed a couple of weeks later. She then claimed
21 that the report was made overnight when her children
22 spent the night at her friend's house. Why was none
23 of this questioned? Why did the police not
24 investigate the inconsistency in her stories?

25 I want to share something personal. I was
26 sexually molested when I was five years old by my
27 neighbor. My brother, who was nine at the time,

1 witnessed the assault. I'm sharing this not for
2 sympathy, but to explain that I understand what it is
3 like to be a victim of such a heinous act. I know
4 what it looks like and feels like to be around your
5 abuser. If you have not experienced this, you can
6 only speculate about how someone behaves and reacts
7 in the presence of their abuser. Just a touch on
8 your shoulder can make you tense up or try to move
9 away. You go to great lengths to avoid being alone
10 with that person, often placing people or other
11 objects between you.

12 From what I observed, I did not see any of this
13 behavior from the alleged victim. While I may not be
14 an expert, I can speak from experience. I saw a
15 child who was thrilled to have a father figure who
16 she said looked like her, sat by him at almost all
17 our family functions. At times, when she missed her
18 biological father, who passed away from an accidental
19 drug overdose in September of 2015, she would stand
20 beside Nicholas for support. She wouldn't even go to
21 the dentist unless Nicholas was there to hold her
22 hand.

23 I also witnessed her devastation when Nicholas
24 and her mother separated. Her mother sent a text
25 message to my husband after their separation,
26 expressing it was the saddest thing she'd ever seen.
27 The message from G.T. stated L.T. was saying how,

1 when she married Nick, she finally had a dad of her
2 own because S.T.'s dad looked like her, and Nick and
3 L.T. looked the same. Now she doesn't have a dad.
4 Would you consider that to be motive?

5 Additionally, how is it that G.T. claimed to be
6 so scared when she requested the order of protection
7 in June of 2020, yet we received harassing calls for
8 over a half an hour at 10 p.m. on Nicholas and G.T.'s
9 wedding anniversary, December 8, 2020? The calls
10 were traced by the phone company using pound 58 and
11 provided to the local police via subpoena. The calls
12 were made from Carolyn Shiavo, or Brooklyn's, cell
13 phone. My home number is unlisted, and I have never
14 met Brooklyn. She is from Saratoga, New York, which
15 is about three hours northwest of where I live. How
16 would Brooklyn obtain my phone number? Why would she
17 be calling me on December 8th?

18 During the trial, I observed Kelsey Gardiner,
19 who was sitting directly in front of my husband and
20 I, seemingly coaching the alleged victim by shaking
21 her head yes in response to a no answer given by the
22 alleged victim during questioning by the prosecutors.
23 The question involved sexual details related to the
24 alleged act. Kelsey is a close friend of Nicholas's
25 ex-wife. My husband and I witnessed the marshal, a
26 young woman with bright red hair, give a verbal
27 warning to Ms. Gardiner. After the court took a

1 break for lunch, a friend sitting across the
2 courtroom informed me that he and his son observed
3 similar behavior from an older woman with gray hair
4 in a ponytail, who also received a verbal warning
5 from another marshal on the opposite end of the
6 seating area.

7 We informed Attorney Berke of what we had
8 witnessed. He brought it to your attention, noting
9 that not only we, but also our friends and the
10 marshals, observed this behavior. Attorney Berke
11 even asked the alleged victim, while questioning her
12 about the audio recording and using her own words, if
13 there was a reason why she was looking over there.
14 She responded, "I'm just confused." What is there to
15 be confused about? Those were her statements in the
16 audio recording. Why is it not viewed as coaching?
17 Why would someone need to coach a victim who is
18 recalling a memory?

19 If the jury had been aware of this coaching,
20 wouldn't it have influenced their judgment of the
21 alleged victim's testimony and ultimately the
22 verdict? How does this not undermine the Court's
23 ability to ensure a fair and impartial outcome?

24 During the discovery process, private
25 investigators contacted many of G.T.'s ex-boyfriends,
26 her ex-husband Checho, friends and family members of
27 L.T.'s biological father, her ex-stepfather, and her

1 ex-brother-in-law. The investigators reported
2 conversations from those interviews. I know that
3 much of what we discovered could not be utilized
4 during the trial, as it was considered hearsay.

5 Many of those interviewed were reluctant to
6 provide any written statement, affidavit, or get
7 involved due to the family's influence and fear of
8 retaliation. One of my -- one mother of an ex-
9 boyfriend stated G.T. was the worst thing that ever
10 happened to him. After listening to the recordings,
11 I was left with significant concerns.

12 There were many inconsistencies in what G.T. had
13 told us about her past. For instance, she claimed to
14 have been kidnapped as a teen. To date, no evidence
15 have been found to support such a claim. It's my
16 understanding that no charges were ever filed. That
17 is what one interviewed person indicated. He was an
18 adult who was in a relationship with G.T.'s mother at
19 the time of the alleged kidnapping.

20 G.T. claimed that L.T.'s father had been stabbed
21 to death in prison for murdering his pregnant
22 girlfriend. That is false. David Carter died from
23 an accidental drug overdose in North Dakota after a
24 traffic stop. He has never been incarcerated. It
25 was also discovered that G.T. and L.T. spoke to her
26 biological father's relatives in California in the
27 summer of 2020, just a few weeks after the report of

1 the allegations. There was no mention of these
2 allegations to her biological grandmother. Why would
3 you not share that information with her grandmother?

4 I want to point out that when Nicholas was
5 arrested, there were allegedly two victims. The
6 charges were dismissed about the other victim. Oddly
7 enough, after the trial, G.T. commented under an old
8 article by the Daily Freeman dated June 16, 2020
9 regarding Nicholas's arrest. She stated, "I am the
10 mother of the girls. Today he got convicted of four
11 out of six counts and is facing 70 years in jail."
12 She posted this under her full name. There was no
13 clarification that the charges pertained one, not
14 two. This post was five years old. Why would
15 someone so concerned about their identity of them or
16 their child be withheld from the public and then
17 publicly post this?

18 On the day the verdict was announced, Nicholas's
19 daughter A.S.'s mother received a text message from
20 [G.] -- excuse me, G.T. -- that said, "You're
21 welcome." She had not had any communication with her
22 whatsoever. G.T. even refused our repeated requests
23 over the last five years for A.S. to meet her sister
24 W.T.H. What would be the purpose of that text
25 message?

26 The recording that G.T. shared with the police
27 which she claims to have made on May 22, 2020 with

1 the alleged victim was not entered into evidence.
2 One might wonder why the prosecutors did not provide
3 this recording to the jury for their review. The
4 recording begins with L.T. saying, "It's a nice day
5 out." G.T. responds with, "It is." However, G.T.
6 testified that it was the worst day of her life,
7 stating that she went outside and threw up in her
8 front yard after receiving a call from her friend
9 Jenn. How can she agree that it's a nice day out
10 after such a traumatic experience?

11 Before any alleged acts are mentioned, L.T.
12 states, "These are all weird words." To this, G.T.
13 replies, "Well, say different words, and I'll know
14 what you're talking about." Why would she use
15 different words from her own, and how can she know
16 what she's talking about if she's speaking with her
17 for the first time? At the end of the recording, L.T.
18 makes an alleged remark.

19 17 seconds later, G.T.s asks, "Do you want me to
20 make you pancakes or do you want me to order food?"
21 L.T. replies, "Can we get donuts?" G.T. responds,
22 "Yeah." L.T. then asks, "What about, like, a dozen
23 or two?" How can they be discussing breakfast after
24 what she described as the worst conversation of her
25 life? Their demeanor during this exchange completely
26 contradicts the alleged gravity of the conversation.

27 Detective Wheeler's report states, "On May 27,

1 2020, I contacted the victim's mother via phone. The
2 victim's mother advised that she would send the audio
3 recording of the conversation she had with her
4 daughter. On June 1, 2020, the audio recording that
5 L.T.'s mother states she took of her conversation
6 with L.T. on May 22nd was received."

7 Officer Fortunato claims that G.T. informed her
8 of the audio recording on May 22nd, the day she filed
9 the first statement. Officer Fortunato states that
10 she did not obtain the recording on that day.
11 Officer Fortunato also testified that she made a call
12 to DCF right after the meeting with G.T. on May 22nd
13 at 1356 hours, or 1:56 p.m. Officer Fortunato
14 testified that as an officer, she is a mandated
15 reporter. Officer Fortunato never made a report to
16 DCF on May 22, 2020 or any date after regarding these
17 allegations. In addition, how did Officer Fortunato
18 testify that she made a report at 1:56 p.m. to DCF,
19 when she began her testimony indicating that she
20 worked evenings and her shift started at 3 p.m.?

21 A report was made by G.T.'s family attorney on
22 May 22, 2020, who made a statement to DCF that G.T.'s
23 uncle is on the Board of Commissioners for the
24 Trumbull PD. One would have to question how they
25 thought that was relevant to the report to DCF.

26 I would like to share with you some social media
27 comments that were posted under a shared news article

1 when Nick was arrested. These are unsolicited
2 comments from people who grew up with Nicholas,
3 friends, coworkers, family, people who have known
4 Nick for years, decades, or his entire life. "Nick
5 would never even sexually assault two little girls.
6 That's crazy." "I don't know if I believe that.
7 I've known Nick since I was five. He's never given
8 off that pedo vibe. He's too good of a person." "I
9 was close with him for a while. We went to
10 California together a couple of years back. I don't
11 believe he did the sexual abuse thing." "I don't
12 know if I believe that." "I don't know if I believe
13 it. The sexual assault on children? I don't see
14 it." "I've known Nick since high school, and I've
15 always thought very highly of him. He was always
16 just a really good dude."

17 Through this trial, we gain insight into what
18 the prosecutors aimed to try. However, the truth is
19 that the prosecutors do not know Nicholas. The
20 detectives do not know Nicholas. The experts do not
21 know Nicholas. You, Your Honor, do not know
22 Nicholas. Even the constancy witness and her mother
23 do not truly know him. They have met him only a
24 handful of times. Nicholas and his now ex-wife were
25 together for just 16 months, and as she testified,
26 their relationship was sporadic. The alleged victim
27 attended school and frequently visited her sister's

1 father's house in New York. This raises the
2 question, how many hours a week did Nicholas spend at
3 his ex-wife's home in Trumbull considering their
4 intermittent relationship?

5 I would also like to clarify the reason my
6 family and friends wore crosses during the trial. I
7 thought it would be a good idea for those of us who
8 attended to show our support for Nicolas by wearing
9 something that identified us as his supporters. I've
10 seen this done in other cases where supporters wore
11 items representing the party they support. The idea
12 of wearing a cross with the words "Innocent" and "Not
13 guilty" was my initiative.

14 Your Honor, I found your comment, "There are no
15 atheists in foxholes," to be offensive. The saying
16 implies that in times of extreme danger or stress,
17 even those who are not normally religious may seek
18 comfort in the belief in a higher power. I do not
19 share that fear. My husband and I are Christians,
20 and when our children were younger, we attended
21 church regularly and became members of our
22 congregation. I was taken aback by the suggestion
23 that someone would mock me for wearing a cross during
24 my son's criminal trial. Leaning on our faith during
25 this time is important to us.

26 We also wore pins that said "Faith over fear."
27 At the beginning of the trial, my husband, Nicholas,

1 our family and friends all stood in the courthouse
2 hallway and prayed together. I continue to pray for
3 Nicholas and my family, seeking strength to endure
4 this wrongful prosecution, knowing that God is my
5 vindicator. Isaiah 54:17 states, "But in that coming
6 day, no weapon turned against you will succeed. You
7 will silence every voice raised up to accuse you.
8 These benefits are enjoyed by the servants of the
9 Lord. Their vindication will come from me. I, the
10 Lord, have spoken." I firmly believe in the truth of
11 this word.

12 Your Honor, I respectfully ask you to use your
13 common sense, just as the prosecutors urged in their
14 closing argument. Why would so many people who have
15 known Nicholas personally for years, even decades, be
16 here today or write letters in support of him if they
17 believed he was guilty of these allegations? I urge
18 the Court to consider that my son is being falsely
19 accused. My grandchildren stand to lose their
20 father, and I stand to lose my son. I pray that
21 these points I've made in this letter prompt you to
22 hesitate before making a quick decision. Please
23 ponder the questions I have raised and grant my son's
24 request for post-conviction relief. Respectfully,
25 thank you.

26 THE COURT: Thank you.

27 ATTY. BERKE: Your Honor, to the extent that

1 G.T. was mentioned by first name or anyone else, I'd
2 ask those be stricken and replaced.

3 THE COURT: Thank you.

4 ATTY. BERKE: And the final person to speak is
5 Mr. Hall.

6 THE COURT: Mr. Hall, as you know, I'm sure your
7 lawyer's explained to you you have a right of
8 allocution. You can make a statement before the
9 Court. That's with regards to Practice Book
10 Connecticut's 43-10. Do you wish to be heard?

11 THE DEFENDANT: I do.

12 THE COURT: Okay.

13 THE DEFENDANT: Good afternoon, Your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Good afternoon.

15 THE DEFENDANT: I hope you're having a good day
16 so far. Only four days after my 32nd birthday, I'm
17 here to respectfully submit my letter as a part of
18 the unfortunate sentencing process in my case. I'm
19 writing to reiterate my plea of innocence to the
20 charges have been falsely accused and now wrongfully
21 convicted of in hopes for you to see and recognize,
22 Your Honor, the very real and true danger my life is
23 him right here, right now, as an innocent man and
24 innocent father and as an innocent son.

25 I apologize for the long letter in advance and
26 if anything seems repetitive. Your Honor, please do
27 not think any of my statements are directed towards

1 you, for I am being very sincere, but this is very
2 important because I finally get to speak the truth to
3 you. Your Honor, unfortunately, you heard many false
4 facts stated about me before by others. But luckily,
5 you heard the truth about me before from the people I
6 love and who know me, the real me: the many good
7 things said about me and my character, how I
8 positively impacted lives, their kids' lives, the
9 community and more. I have no criminal or violent
10 history. I have a perfect court record and
11 attendance. No issues for five years, even being out
12 on an ankle monitor.

13 Before I get more into my background, I need to
14 make sure I mention some things before then. I just
15 wanted to say I appreciate you and thank you for your
16 time, Your Honor. I appreciate everyone else's time
17 and work throughout my case. Unfortunately, all this
18 hard work has led to a horrible and wrong outcome, my
19 false and wrongful conviction. My belief in the
20 integrity and morals of the judicial system are
21 challenged by this horrible outcome, but I know
22 there's an opportunity for you to save my life right
23 now after my letter and restore my hope and help me
24 believe in the judicial system again I thought was
25 here to protect me, the innocent.

26 This is potentially my last chance at having a
27 time to speak the truth of what is really going on

1 here with me and revealing the true motive behind all
2 of this. I would not even accept a plea deal if I
3 was offered probation. They want me to register as a
4 sex offender, which is something I have not or never
5 will be. All this has taken my daughter from me.
6 They did not expect me and my family to fight for my
7 daughter to the very end, and the only choice they
8 had left was to falsely accuse and convict me and put
9 me away in a prison because they know there is proof
10 and reasons why G.T. shouldn't have custody of her
11 children. G.T. even told me multiple times to take
12 the kids, she is done. They took my child from me.

13 Your Honor, it is time to remove the wool from
14 people's eyes because you're all being deceived in a
15 way that is excluded and weaponized by most today,
16 and that is sexual assault allegations. I understand
17 the seriousness of these allegations, Your Honor, and
18 I understand that you, no matter what, have to take
19 them seriously.

20 I would like to mention I offered to take a
21 polygraph test in my interview when this first
22 happened. August 11, 2025, three days ago, I
23 voluntarily took and passed a polygraph test from a
24 gentleman with a vast history performing over 2200
25 polygraph tests, from post-conviction child sexual
26 assault polygraphs to government and high-profile
27 cases performing polygraphs. Passing this polygraph

1 test proves even more I did not and would not ever
2 touch, sexually assault, or hurt those girls, adding
3 to the voluntary psychosexual evaluation that took,
4 where I did receive positive results saying I am
5 attracted to adult females and I do pose as a low
6 risk.

7 THE COURT: Take your time.

8 THE DEFENDANT: Your Honor, I hope all the
9 effort and everything I have done helps prove my
10 innocence and helps you in your decision to grant my
11 motion for new trial or appeal bond today. I can
12 only hope that you take seriously the very real
13 danger my life is in right now. Considering your
14 vast experience as a former prosecutor and judge, I
15 believe even you, Your Honor, have seen the lack of
16 care, the many lies and inconsistencies shown through
17 this entire process by the plaintiff, the alleged
18 victim, detectives, experts involved, from the
19 changing stories, sworn police reports changed only
20 days after filing the first sworn report, to the
21 detectives involved and the careless assumed
22 investigation conducted, to the weightless DNA
23 evidence that did not match me, and more.

24 I'm not here to bash anyone, but I do have to
25 speak on the truth and some information that I'm
26 confident you may not know already, Your Honor. It
27 is very important for you to know this information

1 because I believe that we would have a different
2 outcome today or in hopes, after you finding out, you
3 respectfully grant my motion for new trial and/or
4 appeal bond today, Your Honor. I hope you can be
5 open minded to what I am going to say, because this
6 is real. What I'm going to say to you is true, and
7 my life is in danger.

8 I need to show you how close you are to doing
9 the very thing that any judge wants to avoid, and
10 that is sending an innocent person away to prison for
11 crimes they did not commit. Please do not let them
12 use you and others as a tool to falsely accuse,
13 convict me, and separate me from my daughters, my
14 family, the woman I love and care for dearly, who has
15 been here for the entire time, my friends, my pets,
16 and more. Too many good, innocent people like myself
17 who have a bright future get falsely accused, falsely
18 convicted, and put away in prison for crimes they did
19 not commit.

20 I truly did not think I would be in this
21 horrible position, and yet I still have hope and
22 belief in you, Your Honor. I believe in you to have
23 the courage to keep me safe and will save me from
24 going to a horrible prison and let me be home with
25 the people that I love. My family, my friends, and I
26 are all praying to God that you grant my motion for
27 new trial and/or appeal bond today. We pray you

1 grant me a second chance to come home this weekend.
2 Good, innocent people like myself have had their
3 names dragged through the dirt, their lives ruined,
4 been wrongfully separated from their kids, and more
5 because of judicial miscarriages and people who take
6 advantage of the judicial system. This is a mistake
7 I did not make, and yet nobody else goes away for
8 this traditional miscarriage besides me, leaving my
9 family, my loved ones, and my life that I love.

10 Now, finally, a bit more about myself. My name
11 is Nicholas Hall. I'm 32 years old. I'm from a
12 small town called the Hamlet of Wallkill in Hudson
13 Valley, New York. I was born and raised by a great
14 God-fearing family. I've lived in Wallkill most of
15 my life. I'm here today as an innocent man who has
16 been falsely and wrongfully accused and convicted of
17 such horrible crimes I did not commit.

18 I would like to tell you the truth about myself,
19 now that I have time to, with my own words, with
20 nobody else trying to take my voice from me and paint
21 me as someone I'm not. I've never had a criminal
22 record at all my entire life, nor did I intend to
23 have one now. I'm a God-fearing Irish Italian man.
24 I'm very blessed to be a father. I'm a family man
25 who always enjoys spending time with my daughters, my
26 mother and father, my sister and two brothers, and
27 the woman I love any chance I can get. Not counting

1 the other seven cats, four dogs, and two pigs my
2 family has, I have a cat named Autumn, a dog named
3 Chase, a white dove named Leonardo Dovinchy, and
4 three turtles. I love them all. I love animals, and
5 I've rescued many different animals such as owls, a
6 red-tailed hawk, big and small snapping turtles,
7 dogs, cats, and more.

8 I've always had a tightknit family, and I know
9 I'm very lucky to have that because not everybody has
10 that privilege. I quickly realized this, especially
11 when I married into the [T.] family. I unfortunately
12 married into a very broken-up, confused, rich family.
13 After some time, I saw how connected they really are.
14 They're trying to send a good, innocent father away
15 because of every other false accusation attempt that
16 has failed multiple times through DCF and even via
17 family court.

18 She tried to say I touched my daughter W.T.H. on
19 supervised visitations. G.T. went as far as saying I
20 took W.T.H. two hours away to New York and sexually
21 assaulted W.T.H. on my court-ordered, five-hour
22 supervised visits multiple times while the supervisor
23 and three family members who would always accompany
24 me on every visit were there. We provided many times
25 photos and proof that solidify that we were in a
26 public setting. Thankfully, by the grace of God, the
27 judge realized these allegations that went to great

1 lengths were false and fabricated. He knew that I
2 did not sexually assault my daughter W.T.H. and then
3 reinstated our visits. I would not go and visit
4 alone with W.T.H. if a family member could not come
5 with me.

6 G.T. has stated even in reports that she's
7 actively trying to stop my visitations with my
8 daughter W.T.H. Another thing I must mention: G.T.
9 is also charged with five counts of eavesdropping
10 after recording five visits of mine with W.T.H.,
11 placing a recording device in my bag that I found --
12 [W.]'s bag.

13 I can safely say that my parents love me and my
14 siblings, gave us a great childhood, support us in
15 every way possible and always will. They never gave
16 us an ultimatum for their love. My mother and father
17 never had made everything about money. They made
18 everything about their kids, giving them the best
19 life that they could. I remember being outside a lot
20 as a child and even now with my family going camping
21 in the Catskills, traveling to Myrtle Beach, driving
22 four Wheelers, learning carpentry, going to water
23 parks, and doing so much more, just being a normal
24 kid with my family that I love. I was raised to be
25 respectful. I was raised to be honest, mindful, to
26 take care of my family and others in need, to have a
27 good heart, and more.

1 Some hobbies I enjoy are fishing, golfing,
2 photography, filming, making music, traveling,
3 camping, puzzles, being with nature, and more. I
4 sadly still never got to do some of these hobbies
5 with my own daughters, and I hope that I still have a
6 chance to do those hobbies with my daughters, Your
7 Honor.

8 I'm focused and have been focused on being the
9 best father, the best man, and the best son that I
10 can be, even throughout these seemingly impossible
11 five years. I do not wish for anyone to ever be
12 falsely accused, falsely convicted, and have their
13 name slandered like I have been a victim of. Through
14 this entire process, I've learned so much and have
15 only gotten strong from this, and I'm thankful that I
16 can do that in my darkest times. But the mental,
17 emotional, physically draining damage that has been
18 done to my family is tragic and severe. My family
19 and I -- please let me take what I've learned from
20 this process and live my life and be the best father
21 that I can be.

22 My daughters are hurting the most because they
23 don't understand everything like we do. My daughters
24 miss their father. My daughters need their father.
25 My daughter W.T.H. is prone and has been exposed to
26 dangerous situations in her mother's care, her
27 stepfather's care, and random people she has let

1 babysit W.T.H. I'm not sure how this information,
2 even some of it, did not make it into court and how
3 this is not concerning to anyone at all, but I hope
4 you feel and understand as a father yourself how
5 concerning that is and what danger my daughter W.T.H.
6 is in, Your Honor.

7 Through what I've learned from DCF reports,
8 calls by G.T.'s own family calling DCF on G.T., I've
9 only been scared for my daughter W.T.H as I found out
10 more about her true living situation with her mother
11 and her partner. There has been and still is
12 domestic violence and substance abuse that my
13 daughter has been exposed to. L.T. recorded their
14 domestic violence altercations before via phone. One
15 example is G.T. received stitches because her partner
16 hit her so hard in the head with a pack of beer.

17 I'm still even worried about all the girls after
18 being falsely convicted and the danger that they are
19 still exposed to right now, especially at their
20 stepfather's house and other random people and places
21 the kids are left with. W.H. told me one day on a
22 visit in front of a supervisor that the car window
23 was broken because Mommy was upset.

24 I'm trying to build my filming career. I would
25 like to film more documentaries and movies. After
26 the situation with me, I started my show called
27 School Talk for victims like myself who have been

1 abused, falsely accused, falsely convicted, and more
2 to have a voice and tell their story to expose the
3 abuse of children and people through the court
4 system, government, business, individual, and more.
5 Unfortunately for me, I've never had a platform to
6 finally speak the truth about what is happening to me
7 for the last five years until this very moment with
8 me reading my letter to you, Your Honor.

9 Even now as I sit here, I know I have not had a
10 fair limelight shining on me for five years because
11 of how I've been painted over the years by the radio,
12 newspaper, media sources, people on social media, and
13 more. From Connecticut, New York, and all the way
14 out to California, I was all over the United States.
15 False information was spread about me and who I am as
16 a person, my character, and more, which has tainted
17 my name and more. I have received death threats from
18 people who have posted my address, telling everyone
19 to hurt me and much, much more. I had relatives and
20 friends from California tell me that my name was in
21 their newspaper and on their radio talking about
22 terrible things they knew I would never do. I was in
23 many newspaper ads and played on many radio stations
24 all over Connecticut, New York, all the way out to
25 California for weeks and weeks.

26 One day, while working at my family shop, I saw
27 my name on the news on TV at work, and right after

1 getting into a customer's car to move it, WPDH radio
2 station was on. I heard my name again. Some radio
3 stations even know the [T.]s personally -- excuse me,
4 I'm sorry about that -- in New York, like WPDH, who
5 played me for three weeks straight. The negative,
6 twisted, and false radio media, newspaper, and social
7 media coverage about me -- one report saying I was a
8 babysitter, not even the husband -- mixed with the
9 power and influence their family have in this very
10 court have affected my life, my daughter's life, my
11 family's life for five long years, and ultimately
12 affected the outcome of my case here in Connecticut,
13 leaving me in a dangerous and life-threatening
14 situation.

15 My life, my future, my freedom, and much more is
16 in your hands. Your Honor, not knowing where my
17 future lies or even where I go from here is a lot to
18 think about. If I do go away, I will most likely die
19 in prison, and not of natural causes. I will most
20 likely get killed in prison for something that I did
21 not do.

22 This is not the first time that they did this to
23 someone. Look at G.T.'s last two fathers of her
24 children. Look at her last marriage and her history.
25 L.T. was taken from her father, David, when she was
26 younger. S.T. was taken from her father, Checho, and
27 only sees him so many times. W.T.H. is now being

1 used and now is being separated from me, her father.
2 G.T. told me after we first met that she snuck out of
3 her house at 14 years old to go to a bonfire party,
4 where she met L.T.'s father. She claimed that she
5 was drugged and sexually assaulted by David, L.T.'s
6 father, and that is how [L.] was born. Excuse me.

7 THE COURT: Strike.

8 ATTY. DAVIS: Your Honor, sorry, may we approach
9 briefly?

10 THE COURT: Sure. Off the record for a minute,
11 please. We'll go in chambers.

12 (A pause was taken. Court resumes)

13 THE DEFENDANT: May I continue, Your Honor?

14 THE COURT: Please.

15 THE DEFENDANT: G.T. also claims that she was
16 taken hostage by David and his family while they
17 sexually assaulted her, forced her to make meth, and
18 hide bodies and more. Come to find out this is not
19 true at all. It cannot be any more obvious this is a
20 pattern and there is a history of taking their kids
21 from their fathers, lying, and taking advantage of
22 the legal system. Please don't let them take my
23 daughters' father from her. That is all they ever
24 wanted, and it is very obvious and has been stated in
25 written reports, especially in those divorce and
26 psychiatric records that were denied, Your Honor.

27 May 21st is my daughter [A.]'s birthday. I do

1 not know about anyone else, but I do not think that
2 this is a coincidence at all that the very day I was
3 supposed to be sentenced happened to fall on my
4 daughter's birthday. I also found it ironic that
5 five years ago, May 21st, my daughter's birthday,
6 after G.T. had seen I posted a picture with me and my
7 daughter, [A.], A.S., for the first time L.T.
8 allegedly voiced these accusations about me, which
9 started this whole process, the same day as my
10 daughter's birthday, again. Put the pieces together,
11 Your Honor, if you have not already.

12 Regarding the insufficient and inaccurate DNA
13 evidence that did not even have the alleged victims'
14 DNA, do you remember when you have, Your Honor,
15 specifically mentioned to Mr. Berke, "Doesn't this
16 DNA evidence help your client?" There are many
17 signs, and I believe you did see them, Your Honor. I
18 believe you do see the bigger picture, but there is
19 much more that is making this difficult.

20 Whether I go away for 70 years or by the grace
21 of God you see the very real and true danger my
22 innocent life is in right here, right now and you let
23 me walk out of here with a second chance, I remain
24 committed and steadfast on maintaining and proving my
25 innocence until the day that I die. I sure hope it
26 doesn't take that long, though. I do not want my
27 innocent blood on any person's hands. You will not

1 be sending a guilty man to prison, Your Honor. You
2 will be sending an innocent man to prison. Please
3 help and protect me from such a miscarriage of the
4 judicial system. Even after one realizes they made a
5 mistake, God cannot bring me back after it's too
6 late, and praying will not help either. Don't let
7 the devil get in the way of doing what is right. I
8 know God is on my side and He will save me too, like
9 how I believe you can, Your Honor.

10 After collecting months of proof of G.T. being
11 unfaithful, confronting G.T. about it, and doing my
12 best to prevent anything from getting worse, I had to
13 leave, which led to a very nasty divorce and more
14 motive. She had no intentions of making anything
15 better. G.T. has made bad choices, putting my
16 daughter in danger, exposing her to situations she
17 should have never experienced in the first place.
18 The hardest thing to know was that I would not be
19 with my daughter W.T.H. the day that I had left.

20 When I had left, G.T. was always asking me to
21 come up and be with her, take care of the girls or
22 the dog, or even when she was sick, telling me how
23 grateful she is for me and how great of a father I
24 am. After some time, G.T. asked to reconcile with me
25 in my parents' kitchen, crying her eyes out. My
26 father witnessed it as he walked in. I told G.T.
27 that I cannot trust her anymore and that I cannot be

1 with her again. After some time being apart,
2 everything was great and I thought I could trust her,
3 so I was going to sign the divorce papers for her.
4 My mother had read the papers and caught G.T. trying
5 to trick me into signing over full, sole physical and
6 legal custody of my daughter W.T.H to G.T. without me
7 knowing.

8 After I refused to sign the divorce papers, G.T.
9 changed, and all that led to a nasty divorce. Before
10 this started, G.T. told my father and I three or four
11 different times before these accusations occurred
12 that I would never see my daughter again. G.T.
13 explained to me, and I quote, "My dad will buy me a
14 house if you sign these divorce papers." G.T. told
15 my father and I, quote, "Nick will never see his
16 daughter again if he does not sign those divorce
17 papers." All she wants to do is take my daughter
18 W.T.H. from her father, like she did to her last two
19 daughters' fathers after a nasty divorce and
20 separation.

21 Your Honor, I respectfully ask for you to put
22 yourself in my shoes, and if you cannot do that
23 because of the nature of the situation, I ask you to
24 imagine me as your own son talking to you, who,
25 correct me if I'm wrong, is a great person and a
26 great teacher who has a bright future ahead of
27 himself. Imagine your own son having his life

1 flipped upside down and being falsely accused five
2 years out of nowhere and then wrongfully convicted
3 because he rightfully had to leave an unfaithful
4 person and marriage. Imagine your own son, your own
5 family and blood, being falsely accused of horrible
6 crimes.

7 Imagine watching your own son get falsely
8 convicted and the judge be asked to give him a
9 maximum of 70 years by the prosecution. Imagine your
10 own son's life in the hands of the judicial system,
11 feeling helpless. Imagine your own son having to
12 write a letter to plead for his life and beg the
13 judge to see what is really happening and to grant
14 him another second chance. Imagine your son being
15 the victim of a miscarriage of the judicial system.
16 Imagine your own son getting sent to prison for
17 crimes he did not commit. Imagine your own son
18 getting hurt, potentially killed in prison for
19 something that he never did. My own mother and
20 father are living all those very moments right now
21 right over there in this very courtroom as I read my
22 letter to you, Your Honor. Please do not let them
23 live it forever.

24 Five years is long enough. I would like to have
25 a full normal life and a future with my daughter and
26 be the best father that I can be. I want to have a
27 future with my family and with my love. I would like

1 to get married one day to a woman I love with all my
2 heart and have a future with her. Please save the
3 prison cell for someone that needs to be there and
4 learn from their horrible mistakes, someone who is
5 violent and is actually a danger to society, that has
6 no motivation to do better. Do not waste the chance
7 to put an actual criminal inside of the same cell
8 that others want me to die inside of.

9 I believe people are here under the impression
10 that I cannot leave here without a punishment because
11 of the seriousness of the allegations, although I am
12 innocent. I believe people are here under the
13 impression that they are a bad person or wrong for
14 letting an innocent man have a second chance because
15 of the seriousness of the allegations. They believe
16 I cannot leave here with a future ahead of me
17 although I'm innocent because of these allegations.
18 It is easier to send an innocent man to prison with
19 false accusations and not deal with the backlash than
20 giving an innocent man a second chance because of the
21 fear of others and the effect that it will have on
22 their life for doing right. That is sad and
23 unacceptable. Please let my case be the first
24 stepping stone into fixing and preventing such a
25 horrible miscarriage of the judicial system like I
26 face here today.

27 I believe that you know what is happening here,

1 and you know that you have the power to stop it.

2 Please know that you are a good man, Your Honor, and
3 if you save my life and grant me a second chance, you
4 are not wrong for doing it. I know you've been faced
5 with hard decisions before, Your Honor, and I believe
6 this one to be very difficult as well. I pray that
7 you see through these false accusations and now my
8 false conviction. Save my life, Your Honor. Please
9 do not end it, and let me case, let my pain and
10 suffering be the stepping stone into a new beginning
11 for the judicial system and prevent such a total
12 miscarriage from happening again, because I am a
13 victim here too.

14 Before I end my letter, I want you to please
15 think about what I'm going to tell you. You cannot
16 tell the truth if you are misinformed, Your Honor.
17 You cannot tell the truth if you are misinformed.
18 What does that mean? How would anybody be telling
19 the truth if they were given false information or
20 lying in the first place? You cannot tell the truth
21 if you are misinformed, and I'm sorry to tell you,
22 Your Honor, everyone here has been misinformed from
23 the start. From the officers to the experts, they
24 did not tell the truth, whether they like it or not,
25 because in reality they are prosecuting me using
26 false, coached, influenced allegations and
27 misinformation without thoroughly investigating or

1 even knowing it.

2 I know a motion for new trial is more rarely to
3 be granted, Your Honor, and I'm not asking for
4 special treatment. But compared to others and
5 considering my clean history, I believe that my case
6 meets the criteria for a motion for new trial to be
7 corrected or appeal bond. I have no criminal,
8 violent, alcohol, or substance abuse background. I
9 have had no issues for the last five years waiting
10 for my trial and do not intend to have any. Join the
11 judges who have the courage to -- excuse me, join the
12 judges who had the courage to grant a motion for new
13 trial or appeal bond.

14 Please let me see my daughters again. Please
15 let me go home. Please let my daughters' father go
16 home. Let my family see their son and their brother.
17 If false and coached testimony can get me, an
18 innocent man, falsely convicted of horrible crimes,
19 then let my truthful testimony, my family's truthful
20 testimony, the woman I love's truthful testimony, and
21 many good close friends' truthful testimony from the
22 bottom of our hearts save me from this death sentence
23 that is not meant for me and let me come home today.
24 Please save my innocent life because I know you can
25 and have the power to do it today.

26 Thank you for your time, Your Honor. I
27 appreciate you listening very much, and I hope I was

1 able to open your mind more about the very real
2 danger that I am in as a falsely convicted innocent
3 man. Don't let me die in prison. I love my life and
4 the bright future I have always had ahead of myself.
5 I love God, and I know that He is going to save me.
6 I believe He's going to help you see the truth behind
7 all of this. I believe God will help you get the
8 strength to grant me a second chance and have me come
9 home to my family today.

10 Have the courage to grant a motion for new trial
11 or appeal bond because I believe it does meet the
12 criteria. I have no criminal history, nothing. I've
13 never laid a finger on any children in any negative
14 or sexual manner. I do not expose my daughters to
15 violence or dangerous situation. I am a loving
16 father. I am a good man. I miss my daughters so
17 much, and I know they miss me too. I miss what
18 normalcy felt like because I cannot wake up without
19 thinking about potentially being sent away because of
20 false allegations. I will maintain my innocence.

21 If I am granted a second chance, I will tell you
22 now, Your Honor, I will continue to be the loving
23 father and a good man that I am. I will continue to
24 support my forever, stay close to them. I will
25 continue to be with the woman I love very much,
26 hopefully build a life with her, and finally move on
27 from this five-year nightmare. Thank you, Your

1 Honor. I hope that I'm able to walk out of here
2 today with my family to continue fighting this
3 serious nightmare. I hope you see the danger that I
4 face here today as a falsely convicted man. I have
5 done everything I can to go out of my way and show
6 that I am a good man. I hope it is recognized. I
7 love and miss my daughters so much. I love my
8 family. I love the woman by my side. I love my
9 life.

10 I am innocent. This is real. Save me, Your
11 Honor. I need your help. I know this is a very
12 unique situation with serious allegations, but you
13 have all people know that judicial miscarriages
14 happen, and it is happening right now. Be the reason
15 we move another step towards changing the judicial
16 systems for the better and preventing innocent people
17 like me from being wrongfully convicted. Thank you,
18 Your Honor, for your time and for listening, and I
19 hope I can be with my family and the woman I love
20 dearly after today, and I hope I'm able to see my
21 daughters again. I miss them very much. Thank you.

22 THE COURT: Thank you.

23 THE DEFENDANT: You're welcome.

24 THE COURT: Attorney Berke, anything further?

25 ATTY. BERKE: There are no other people that are
26 going to speak, but I'd like to conclude.

27 THE COURT: Sure.

1 ATTY. BERKE: You heard several hours from
2 friends and family of Nick Hall. There's nothing
3 factually I could add that would provide any
4 additional weight to those concepts. In an attempt
5 to quarterback these proceedings, I had asked the
6 family to provide me letters in advance so at least I
7 can see what was going to be said. In reviewing it,
8 there's a theme of Nicholas Hall continuing to
9 maintain his innocence. That is inconsistent with
10 how sentencings normally proceed. Judges typically
11 look towards acceptance of responsibility as a very
12 significant factor. Obviously, I'm tortured here
13 trying to deal with that conflict.

14 And having read the PSI, I was looking at the
15 conditions that are proposed. In looking at Page 15,
16 Paragraph 4, probation is asking that the Court
17 impose periodic polygraph examinations, and that was
18 the jumping stone for my thought process. Let me see
19 if anyone has ever utilized or challenged a polygraph
20 at a sentencing hearing. The statements are made
21 from so many people, including Nicholas Hall, that
22 he's innocent. So I reached out and commissioned a
23 polygraph examiner who has a lot of experience over
24 three decades in the field. I can say informally I
25 shared that result and, I believe, the CV with the
26 Court, and if I can make part of the record the same
27 thing that I submitted?

1 THE COURT: Sure.

2 ATTY. BERKE: So the polygraph analyzed three
3 questions, and how it was explained to me is the
4 polygraph examiner places certain crucial facts and
5 then identifies them through the process of a
6 polygraph exam. And the three facts that he
7 considered is statements that were signed by Mr.
8 Hall: "I did not ever touch [L.]'s buttocks. I did
9 not ever make [L.] touch my penis. I did not make
10 [L.] perform oral sex on me." Now, I would ask that
11 be stricken. I was just reading from the statement.
12 If that could be changed to L.T. for the record.

13 THE COURT: And with regards to what I was going
14 to make court exhibits, the name is in there as you
15 just read from, so I'm going to -- Louis Conte, who
16 did the polygraph, that could be made a court
17 exhibit, but the other one could be made a court
18 exhibit but sealed. I don't know what numbers we're
19 up to, so we'll get to that later.

20 ATTY. BERKE: So facing a client that is
21 continuing to assert his innocence -- I say that in
22 the context that the jury had rendered a verdict --
23 this court is in a very difficult position. These
24 are tough cases. This may be one of the hardest
25 cases that I think many of us have been involved in
26 for a variety of reasons, including the emotions that
27 are involved. The legislature has placed constraints

1 on this court, and that constraint is a minimum
2 sentence of ten years. Despite what I may think
3 about mandatory minimums and how, in some
4 jurisdictions, there are departures for most
5 mandatories, Connecticut does not offer that for
6 these types of offenses.

7 But there's something that I did consider, and
8 although the Court can't depart from a minimum
9 sentence of ten years, there is something the Court
10 can consider, and I'd also the Court to consider
11 allowing the issues raised to be addressed, as the
12 Court indicated, by appellate review. And the Court
13 could -- I don't mean to step on my colleagues' toes
14 here. The Court could allow Mr. Hall an appellate
15 bond to proceed with his issues raised at any point
16 during the course of today. I would suggest to the
17 Court if you thought, based on the composition of our
18 current Supreme Court, that the Court may consider
19 issues raised and how the Court may address that, I
20 would urge the Court to consider an appellate bond.

21 I'm sure that Your Honor is not surprised that
22 I'm asking the Court to impose the mandatory minimum
23 of ten years. I am confident that based upon a
24 variety of factors that that is the appropriate
25 resolution of this, and that includes the significant
26 period of time he's on pretrial supervision. In my
27 recollection, there is not one negative report.

1 During the course of the trial, Mr. Hall was
2 respectful. He frequently beat me into the
3 courtroom. He was respectful to the parties
4 involved, including the marshals and the Court.

5 What's interesting about the PSI -- and I know
6 there was reference to the psychosocial that was
7 commissioned by Attorney Russell, but I want the
8 Court to remember that on Page 15 of the PSI,
9 probation did their own assessment, and if I can just
10 quote it, "Probation's risk assessment tool, the
11 Level of Service Inventory, reflects Hall possesses a
12 low risk of recidivism." This is not an expert
13 retained by the defense. This is probation's
14 analysis, based upon everything they're aware of
15 that, there is a low risk of recidivism. And when
16 you couple that with a lack of criminal record,
17 having been able to follow the Court's conditions of
18 release for a significant period of time, I think
19 that warrants a sentence at the lowest end of this
20 statutory range, which is ten years. Thank you, sir.

21 THE COURT: Thank you. Anything further from
22 the State?

23 ATTY. DAVIS: Just briefly. Do you want to
24 address the psychosexual examination now? Okay. I
25 just want to reiterate -- and I think Attorney Berke
26 did a good job of that as well -- that this, as the
27 Court knows, is a sentencing. There was a lot of --

1 which I could comment on, but I'm not going to
2 because we'd be here all day. There was a lot of
3 comment about evidentiary issues, but as the Court
4 knows, a jury -- an impartial jury -- found the
5 defendant guilty of four of the six counts, and
6 that's the reality here. That's why we're here.
7 It's a sentencing hearing. And I'll reserve the rest
8 of my comments, but that's all for that.

9 THE COURT: Thank you. Well, as everybody
10 recognizes, one of the most difficult parts of being
11 a judge, the defendant in this case is exposed to a
12 70-year sentence, of which there is a 10-year
13 mandatory minimum. In fact, two of the other
14 charges, the risk of injury, carry a five-year
15 mandatory minimums. However, that could be rolled in
16 concurrently. But the defendant's sentence,
17 nevertheless, is -- the floor, so to speak, is 70 --
18 the ceiling is 70 and the floor, so to speak, is 10
19 years.

20 I have listened to all the comments. Somebody
21 indicated that we don't want you to make a quick
22 decision. Quite the contrary. I've encouraged
23 everyone to take their time, I've pushed back my
24 trial, and I hope people don't think this is a quick
25 decision. This is something I've been laboring over
26 for months now. Every time the case got pushed back
27 for sentencing -- and I'm not faulting one side or

1 another. You know, you got new counsel, it got
2 pushed back, it got pushed back again, and here we
3 are. But it's not a quick decision.

4 People have provided statements. I counted 19
5 people have commented and spoke on the defendant's
6 behalf and told us about the impact the defendant has
7 had on his life -- on their lives. That's very
8 difficult to reconcile with what we do know is that a
9 jury has convicted you, Mr. Hall, of having a very
10 big impact on the lives of the victims' family. And
11 I can say victim now. During the course of the
12 trial, we were very clear not to say victim. We
13 would say alleged victim or complainant, but here we
14 could say victim because the jury has spoken, and the
15 jury has spoken loudly and clearly that you've been
16 found guilty of those charges.

17 I do want to spend a moment talking to L.T., to
18 her mom, and to others in the family. L.T.,
19 sometimes judges sit up here and say I know what
20 you're going through. I have no idea what you're
21 going through. I can't imagine. I can't imagine
22 been eight years old being subject to this abuse. I
23 can't imagine having to tell your mother. We heard
24 your mother's reaction when she was told, that she
25 got violently ill because of it, and I know that must
26 have been difficult to tell her.

27 Then after that, you had to tell a whole string

1 of other people, and then four years later -- five
2 years later, you had to come in here and tell
3 strangers in a strange atmosphere. People were
4 sitting just where you were. You looked him right in
5 the eye. I watched you testify and I thought, "Oh my
6 goodness, that girl at this age, it's probably one of
7 the bravest women that have ever come in this
8 courtroom," and that's incredible. But I say that to
9 everyone over here too. It's all been bravery. Too
10 often, sentences become about the defendant and
11 nothing about the victim or the victim's family, and
12 I don't want you to think that what you've witnessed
13 today is the Nicholas Hall show and has nothing to do
14 with you. You're being remembered in this.

15 I've had the opportunity to listen to all the
16 evidence, I've watched everyone testify, I've
17 examined over 50 pieces of evidence, and I will tell
18 you that this is by far the most difficult job in the
19 judicial system. The prosecutor on my trial is
20 indicating can we let the witnesses go. Yes, please,
21 with my apologies.

22 ATTY. JUSTINA MOORE: And we can do a habeas,
23 Judge?

24 THE COURT: What's that?

25 ATTY. JUSTINA MOORE: We can do a habeas?

26 THE COURT: New habeas for tomorrow. 10:00
27 tomorrow morning, please.

1 ATTY. JUSTINA MOORE: Thank you.

2 ATTY. DANIEL FORD: Thank you, Your Honor.

3 THE COURT: So here we are today, and I have to
4 fix a decision. It's more than just putting together
5 numbers. It is axiomatic that a judge considers the
6 four objectives of sentencing, which include
7 deterrence, retribution, incapacitation, and
8 rehabilitation. Preventing crime and punishing those
9 who engage in it are essential functions of the
10 State. Criminal penalties must be imposed, one, to
11 deter the perpetrator -- that is, Mr. Hall -- from
12 doing this again; two, to express the moral outrage
13 experienced by not only the victim but by society as
14 a whole -- that's called retribution -- to prevent
15 the perpetrator from committing additional offenses;
16 and the fourth and final is rehabilitation.
17 Sentencing courts of course must consider the risk a
18 particular defendant poses to the public, the safety,
19 and consideration to the incapacitation.

20 I do want to note something that the prosecutor
21 said. Not to pick up on something you said, Ms.
22 Davis, but you said -- and I believe it was you -- a
23 lot of people have spoken about a family being
24 ruined. And I will tell this to L.T. and G.T.: yes,
25 a family was ruined here, but that should not ruin
26 you. That should not mean you as individuals. That
27 should not ruin you as people. We always say -- and

1 we say to defendants too -- that we hope you're not
2 defined by this one moment in time, and I sincerely
3 mean that. You know, it's easy for me to say this is
4 over with now, go forward, and I know that's
5 difficult, and I know that's what counseling's for.
6 But I want you to know that I recognize this has
7 ruined a family, but more importantly, I don't want
8 it to ruin you or your family as it is right now.

9 Now, there's been a lot of talk about religion,
10 and although religious -- you know, my kids probably
11 hear more profanity on the weekends than they do
12 scripture, but I do have -- you're going to quote
13 Isaiah? I've got a quote. It's Matthew 10:36, and
14 that's this: a man -- and of course, the Bible was
15 written -- but a person's enemies shall come from
16 thine own household, and that's exactly what happened
17 here. This offense is particularly offensive when it
18 was committed by somebody who was entrusted to live
19 in a house, trusted to someone they called Dad. It's
20 a title that we reserve for people who have loving
21 and caring relationships, and this was far from it.

22 So now I stand ready to sentence. There are
23 four charges. With regards to sexual assault in the
24 first degree, Mr. Hall, it is the sentence of the
25 Court that you be committed to the Commissioner of
26 Corrections for a period of 20 years. Execution of
27 that is suspended after 10. That is a mandatory

1 minimum sentence, and probation for a period of 35
2 years. Probation, under 53a-29f, is permissible for
3 35 years, and I think that's appropriate in this case
4 given your age and given the age of L.T. On sex in
5 the fourth degree, it is a sentence of the Court --
6 which bumps it up to a felony. It is the sentence of
7 the Court you be committed to the Commissioner of
8 Corrections for a period of 5 years, execution
9 suspended after 2, probation for 10 years. I will
10 note that those two sentences are to run consecutive
11 to each other.

12 The two risk of injury charges I will run
13 concurrent to each other, but it will be consecutive
14 to the other two sentences. It may not seem like a
15 well-drafted sentence. However, it is the best I
16 could come up for for the bottom line, so to speak.
17 On the first count of risk of injury, it is the
18 sentence of the Court you be committed to the
19 Commissioner of Corrections period of 15 years,
20 execution suspended after 9, probation again for a
21 period of 35 years. On the final remaining count of
22 risk of injury, it is the sentence of the Court you
23 be committed to the Commissioner of Corrections for a
24 period of 15, years execution suspended after 9
25 years, probation for a period of 35 years.

26 As I said, the two risk of injuries are to
27 concurrent to each other but consecutive to the other

1 sentences, for a total effective sentence of 40
2 years, execution suspended after 21, probation for a
3 period of 35. SAVA fines in the amount of \$151 on
4 all counts, for a total of \$604. As I said, you'll
5 be on probation for a period of 35 years, with the
6 following special conditions; and I'm adopting all of
7 them from the PSI.

8 Supervised by the Office of Adult Probation Sex
9 Offender Unit; I will say that this is the most
10 stringent supervision in the state. You are to
11 report as directed and abide by all standard
12 conditions of policy of probation. You will abide by
13 all rules and regulations pertaining to registration.
14 Notification with regards to convicted sex offenders
15 are outlined by the Connecticut General Statutes.
16 And make no mistake, this is a lifetime registration
17 which you will register for. Is there a
18 (indiscernible)?

19 ATTY. DAVIS: Yes, there is.

20 THE COURT: The defendant will be evaluated and
21 participate in community-based sex offender treatment
22 with the Connecticut Association for Treatment for
23 Sexual Offenders, which we commonly refer to as a
24 CATSO provider. Abide by all rules and regulations
25 pertaining to sex offender treatment that will
26 include participation in periodic polygraph exams.
27 The defendant will adhere to all sex offender

1 conditions, including the limited use of computer
2 access, signing a computer access agreement as deemed
3 appropriate by the supervising probation officer.

4 You will not initiate any contact with the
5 victim throughout the period of probation. In fact,
6 right now I am signing a standing criminal
7 restraining order, and it reads as follows, and you
8 are to abide by this restraining order. You are to
9 not possess any firearms or ammunitions, and with
10 regards to L.T., you are not to assault, threaten,
11 abuse, harass, follow, interfere, or stalk her. You
12 should stay away from her home or wherever she may
13 reside. You should -- you are to stay 100 yards away
14 from her, and you should have no contact. And when I
15 say no contact, that means not in person, not in
16 writing, not by any electronic means, not through a
17 third party. No contact means no contact. In fact,
18 you cannot be within 100 yards of L.T.

19 The defendant will not have any contact with any
20 minors throughout the period of probation and will
21 not visit any places where minors congregate unless
22 approved by the supervising probation officer. You
23 will seek and maintain legal verifiable employment
24 through the Office of Probation, and that employment
25 must be deemed appropriate by the supervising
26 probation officer. You will participate in any
27 counseling deemed necessary by probation, which may

1 include but is not limited to anger management and/or
2 family therapy, and failure to abide by any of the
3 special conditions of probation will result in an
4 immediate violation of probation.

5 As I indicated, the sentence is 40 after 21, of
6 which ten years is -- I'm sorry, 15 years is
7 mandatory minimum. For the risk of injuries, it was
8 15-9-35, with of that 9 years, 5 is mandatory minimum
9 on each of those. All right, I'll address appellate
10 bond in just a minute, but anything you want to be
11 heard on at this time?

12 ATTY. DAVIS: No.

13 THE COURT: All right. Then, Madam Clerk, if
14 you could please address the defendant. Pay
15 attention, please, sir.

16 THE CLERK: Yes, Your Honor. I'm currently
17 providing the defendant with a notice of right to
18 (indiscernible); notice of application; affidavit of
19 indigency; application for waiver of fees, costs, and
20 expenses, and appointment of counsel on appeal;
21 notice of right to have sentence reviewed; sex
22 offender advisement of registration requirements; and
23 the (indiscernible) pamphlet.

24 THE COURT: Thank you. Is the standing criminal
25 restraining order in there as well, or has that
26 already been handed?

27 THE CLERK: He was provided it.

1 THE COURT: He's already been provided a copy of
2 it. L.T. has received hers, or at least a member of
3 the family has received hers.

4 All right, now we'll address the -- you can be
5 seated as we address the motion for appellate bond
6 that was filed yesterday, August 13, 2025. I'll hear
7 from you, Attorney Russell.

8 ATTY. RUSSELL: Thank you, Your Honor. As Your
9 Honor knows, these are very often made orally. Out
10 of an abundance of caution, we filed it. There are
11 issues which we brought before the Court on the
12 motion for the new trial, and we already -- all of
13 the legal issues have been resolved at this level.
14 What I would like to address briefly is this: he's
15 here today and he came here on a \$500,000 bond, and
16 he knew that he was facing a mandatory minimum. He's
17 now received a more serious -- a more stringent
18 sentence, and he has shown that he will abide by the
19 conditions of this court. His situation has not
20 changed greatly from where it was over the past five
21 years, with the exception --

22 THE COURT: I'm not so sure that's correct.

23 ATTY. RUSSELL: Well --

24 THE COURT: He went from being accused --

25 ATTY. RUSSELL: No, respectfully, Your Honor --

26 THE COURT: I'm still speaking, counsel.

27 ATTY. RUSSELL: Yes.

1 THE COURT: He went from being accused -- a
2 suspect to an accused to convicted and now sentenced.
3 So I would submit to you that it has changed. It has
4 changed substantially. He went from the hope of,
5 "Judge, can you go below the mandatory minimum? Can
6 you set me free? Can I get a free trial," to all of
7 a sudden looking at 21 years, of which 10 is
8 mandatory -- 15 is the mandatory minimum.

9 ATTY. RUSSELL: I heard his comments and I heard
10 the sentence, and what I meant was he has the same
11 room full of people supporting him. He has the same
12 family supporting. He has the same job supporting
13 him. He was in a more than hostile setting, subject
14 to police scrutiny, police complaints, monitoring,
15 accusations regarding his other child, and he
16 weathered all of that, with probably constant
17 complaints to the police for five years of court
18 release.

19 And so this has been an acrimonious five years,
20 this has been a difficult five years, and he has
21 returned to this courthouse and to every other
22 courthouse he was required to go to. He came to this
23 courtroom 53 times. He came to probation as
24 required. He checked in with local law enforcement.
25 Your Honor heard from three retired law enforcement
26 people who know this young man.

27 THE COURT: Actually, I counted four. One of

1 them worked for corrections as well.

2 ATTY. RUSSELL: Correct.

3 THE COURT: There were three the New York State
4 cops -- two, a local cop, and then one who also
5 worked for correction, so I counted four. And that
6 did not go unnoticed by the Court that there were
7 four law enforcement.

8 ATTY. RUSSELL: Right. Yes. And so what I
9 meant to say -- obviously, not articulately -- is his
10 circumstance in terms of the network of people, the
11 stakeholders in his continued compliance with the
12 orders of this court, are prepared to assist his
13 family to post a bond. And the issues that he has
14 raised, respectfully, Judge, they are significant,
15 they are noteworthy for our appellate court, who has
16 looked carefully at the presentation of DNA evidence
17 where appropriate.

18 And so I don't pretend to have any skill in
19 predicting the outcome of an appellate process, but I
20 do say that this young man, from the point of view as
21 five years as a pretrial detainee, could not have
22 provided the Court with more support than he did
23 through his conduct, and he could not provide the
24 Court with more support through the testimony of the
25 people in this community and his employment and the
26 unimaginable scrutiny and surveillance that he
27 underwent. And the worst thing I heard from the

1 people that spoke from the State was that he held the
2 door open at a McDonald's restaurant at one point
3 during the five years, and so that was it. So in
4 terms of --

5 THE COURT: If that was the worst thing you
6 heard, you weren't listening, because you didn't see
7 the trial.

8 ATTY. RUSSELL: No, I'm talking about his
9 conduct. I'm here on the subject of bond. I'm here
10 on the subject of his returning. I understand what
11 happened here, and I also understand my role, and
12 according to the statute, I would respectfully ask
13 the Court to put aside what happened here today and,
14 you know what, perhaps decide it on a different day,
15 Your Honor.

16 But my application today is that Your Honor
17 impose a two million dollar bond. His parents are
18 working people. They own a car garage. These are
19 not millionaires. These are not wealthy people. But
20 there's a community of people that stand behind this
21 man. Again, through no fault of the people around
22 him, the real estate that they own, the property that
23 they own is in the State of New York, and so putting
24 up security is going to be far more cumbersome than
25 if a community of this magnitude appeared with
26 Connecticut businesses, Connecticut homes that they
27 could post for collateral.

1 So my application, Judge -- I understand what
2 happened today. He certainly understands the
3 sentence that he received today. But the people
4 around him will not disappoint Your Honor, and he
5 will not disappoint the people around him. So for
6 those reasons, and not because of the non-legal
7 considerations, because of the legal considerations,
8 I'm going to ask that Your Honor confer upon him not
9 the right but the privilege to an appellate bond.

10 THE COURT: Thank you.

11 ATTY. DAVIS: I'm going to ask that the Court
12 deny that privilege that the defense is asking for.
13 And I don't know where we are today, what kind of
14 alternate universe this feels like, but the defendant
15 is not the victim here. I've spent hours today
16 listening to how the defendant's been victimized by
17 this process. L.T.'s the victim here, all right?
18 That's what we're here for. He's not a victim.

19 The right to bond is rooted in the presumption
20 of innocence, which is gone. It is gone here. He's
21 facing a mandatory minimum. The Court just sentenced
22 him to 15 years mandatory minimum. And also, I
23 reviewed counsel's motion -- which I believe I got
24 yesterday -- in detail.

25 THE COURT: Yes.

26 ATTY. DAVIS: I went over the issues yesterday
27 in detail with our appellate unit. There's nothing

1 novel here. I don't know why the defendant thinks
2 he's special. This isn't special. This is a normal
3 sex case. These issues come up in all sex cases. I
4 don't know anything here -- our appellate court can
5 handle it, but I don't think there's any need for an
6 appellate bond or anything about this case that makes
7 it special for an appellate bond.

8 I just see here a defendant who's failed to
9 acknowledge that he did this, which is fine. That's
10 his right. He's allowed to allocute in any way he
11 wants. But I don't think this is a circumstance
12 where the Court should impose an appellate bond. If
13 the Court is inclined to do that, I'd ask that the
14 Court impose at least a three million dollar
15 appellate bond and I'd ask that he stay in the State
16 of Connecticut.

17 THE COURT: Attorney Felsen, you wanted to be
18 heard?

19 ATTY. FELSEN: Thank you, Your Honor. I just
20 wanted to address some things because we are in a
21 different situation than we were before. Your Honor
22 has imposed sentence, and you have allowed many
23 people to speak, including the defendant, and the
24 defendant clearly repeatedly expressed that he was
25 under the impression that you could certainly
26 sentence him to less than the mandatory minimum. So
27 he's a flight risk, not just for that reason.

1 There's a danger to the community, and I want to
2 address that.

3 Attorney Russell pointed out a very important
4 thing which I want to address: the fact that there's
5 this network of people that won't disappoint Your
6 Honor. This network of people got up one by one and
7 told Your Honor that they were offended by Your
8 Honor, got up one by one and told Your Honor that
9 somehow the judicial process was corrupt, got up one
10 by one and indicated that expert witnesses were out
11 in the hall colluding with each other, got up one by
12 one and stated that L.T. was coached. Worse than
13 that, the loved one of Mr. Hall, by way of parable,
14 got up and called L.T. a pathological liar. Those
15 are the people whose care he would be entrusted in if
16 he were released.

17 Your Honor made a really important point about
18 the way people appear and the way that they really
19 are. Your Honor knows I'm a criminal defense
20 attorney. I've represented people for 26 years who
21 are accused of and convicted of horrible things, and
22 I can tell Your Honor that it is an anomaly, it is a
23 rarity when a loved one or family member, when they
24 learn that their loved one is producing child
25 pornography or touching little children, where they
26 say, "Oh, that tracks. I thought that all along."
27 The bottoms drop out of them. They're surprised.

1 They're shocked. They're able to be fooled, and they
2 are fooled because people live double lives. That's
3 what happens. That's what happened.

4 I want to briefly address the psychosexual
5 report because it was submitted to Your Honor as part
6 of a consideration of whether or not there's a risk
7 to the community and whether the safety of the
8 community can be insured if he's released upon it,
9 and I want to address just a couple of things in it.
10 And I very much appreciate whoever shared it with me
11 because it's got a lot of information in here which I
12 think Your Honor needs to consider.

13 Most importantly, Your Honor, I provide a lot of
14 these reports to the Court for sentencing purposes or
15 in pretrial negotiations, and what I know about these
16 reports is that if I don't like them or I don't like
17 something that's said in them -- I see them first. I
18 review them. I screen them. I give them back. So I
19 make sure that whatever is in the report is the best
20 it can be, that it presents my client's best foot
21 forward so that there's nothing in here that is cause
22 for concern.

23 Somehow something slipped through the cracks.
24 Maybe this is the best it can be, but there are some
25 things in here that are really concerning that I'd
26 like Your Honor to take into consideration. First
27 and foremost, the report itself. The person who

1 authored the report indicated that there are concerns
2 about the defendant's candor, about his candor, about
3 what he's sharing with them, and that he, in fact, is
4 presenting himself in the most favorable light. Of
5 utmost concern is the insistence repeatedly -- and I
6 think Attorney Russell had indicated that he plans to
7 bring this out in the appeal -- is that this
8 allegedly false allegation is the product of a
9 contentious divorce between G.T. and Mr. Hall. That
10 could not be further from the truth. In fact, G.T.
11 was happy that Mr. Hall was going to her home, was
12 thankful that Mr. Hall was babysitting her three
13 beautiful girls, was grateful that Mr. Hall still had
14 a good relationship with her and, in fact, was giving
15 her dating advice during this time period. It was
16 not contentious, and the facts belie that.

17 THE COURT: I do recall the testimony with
18 regards to that.

19 ATTY. FELSEN: There's an indication within the
20 report similar to what we heard today. I've never
21 heard this in a sentencing hearing, where a family --
22 and a family as good as this that I've known for over
23 five years, who have been nothing but graceful and
24 respectful of the court process and have done every
25 single thing along the way that reflects what's in
26 the best interests of these children. There's been
27 insinuation and attacks on G.T. and who she is as a

1 mom and who she is as a parent and who she has been
2 as a spouse, and you've heard from Megan about one of
3 those spouses and what kind of relationship G.T. has
4 with him and had with him, and that completely
5 contradicts the characterization that was presented
6 here by Mr. Hall's loved ones and that he's presented
7 in the report that's evaluating what the risk is.
8 And by the way, they didn't say on the best day that
9 he's a low risk. They called him a moderate risk.
10 That's concerning.

11 Also reiterated in the report is all of the
12 different reasons why L.T. would come up with such a
13 thing, and those reasons -- and I'm not going to
14 repeat them. I had said during my statement they
15 don't exist. They're figments of his imagination,
16 just like this contentious divorce proceeding, just
17 like the accusations that you left something out and
18 said that it was a mistake at some point, which I
19 don't recall Your Honor ever saying.

20 There's an indication in here that his other
21 daughter's mother -- and I don't mean to bring her
22 into it, but I'd like to note, Your Honor, she's
23 sitting here. She's sitting here with the victim's
24 family. I've never spoken to her before today.
25 Never spoken to her before today. She's never
26 reached out to me. She is sitting here as the mother
27 of a young child, and that young child --

1 THE COURT: What's her initials?

2 ATTY. FELSEN: N.S.

3 ATTY. DAVIS: N.S.

4 THE COURT: N.S.; that's in our PSI as well,
5 right?

6 ATTY. DAVIS: Yes.

7 ATTY. FELSEN: Yes, and that's A.S.'s mother.
8 And there's an indication in this report that N.S. is
9 supportive of him and believes he was wrongfully
10 convicted and Mr. Hall was the one who opted out of
11 seeing his daughter out of fears that a CPS case
12 would be opened. She's sitting here. That's simply
13 not true.

14 THE COURT: Thank you for bringing that to my
15 attention. I was unaware of that.

16 ATTY. FELSEN: So many things are glaring to me.
17 I'll just say one more that's kind of obvious or
18 should be obvious, because everybody comes in and
19 presents their best self at sentencing, and everybody
20 has loved ones and backgrounds and histories. Almost
21 all defendants who come here -- and I'll say almost
22 all of my clients are really good people, which is
23 crazy. It's very hard to reconcile when defendants
24 for the most part or in some other aspects of their
25 life present themselves as being really good people
26 and really loving and they have interests and they
27 have hobbies and they have family, and those family

1 come and they support.

2 Mr. Hall has a pending criminal case. When Mr.
3 Hall pulled up to G.T.'s home that day, when Mr. Hall
4 thought he was going to babysit these three young,
5 beautiful girls, he had 4.87 pounds of marijuana in
6 his car. Is he innocent of that too?

7 Your Honor, I could go on and on, but there
8 needs to be an end to this. There's been repeated
9 over the past, I think, six or seven hours repeated
10 traumatizing of the victim and her family, bashing of
11 them, disparaging them, talking about them being
12 broken and dysfunctional albeit rich. They may be
13 rich. They're certainly not broken and they're
14 certainly not dysfunctional. They're loving.
15 They're caring. They're giving. They're forgiving.
16 This is unforgivable.

17 Your Honor, he shouldn't be out. He's a danger
18 to the community. He's a danger to them. There's
19 nothing that can be fashioned that protects any risk.
20 The family is not -- has shown themselves today to be
21 not in a position to adequately supervise him or to
22 have adequate respect for the Court or the process
23 such that there can be any guarantee or security that
24 he's going to be safe to be out under any conditions.
25 Thank you.

26 THE COURT: Thank you, Attorney Felsen.
27 Attorney Russell, did you want to be heard again?

1 ATTY. RUSSELL: I simply want to say that I
2 didn't think it was my role to edit a psycho
3 evaluation, a psychosexual evaluation.

4 THE COURT: Well, if there's something so
5 glaring as that --

6 ATTY. RUSSELL: It's not --

7 THE COURT: And the fact whether -- go ahead.

8 ATTY. RUSSELL: It's not my job to sugarcoat it.
9 This was the evaluation, and that was the assessment.
10 More compelling, I think, for Your Honor is the
11 assessment of the Department of Probation's psycho
12 evaluation, which also came to even more favorable
13 conclusions. So both of those have not made any
14 impression on the Court whatsoever, so I don't know
15 that that's an issue that pertains to flight or
16 flight risk or risk of flight. And again, there's a
17 trial. There's a sentence. That happened. I'm not
18 arguing that. I'm here arguing the legal issues and
19 the privilege, as I phrased it, to be free on bond
20 considering the issues that he will raise on appeal
21 and considering the pressures he is under.

22 And again, to be clear, what I said was he had
23 been challenged on his custody of his other child,
24 and he was put through that and was found, after a
25 DCF investigation, to be cleared, and he did that
26 while he was out on bond in this case. And he was
27 investigated not only by this state but by the State

1 of New York while he was out on bond in this case.
2 I'm here talking about bond pending appeal, not
3 trying the case again, and I apologize, Your Honor,
4 if there was any confusion about that.

5 THE COURT: Thank you. Thank you. The parties
6 are well aware there's no constitutional entitlement
7 to bail pending appeal either under our federal
8 constitution or Article 8 -- Article First 8, Section
9 8 of the Connecticut Constitution. And I'll cite the
10 case of State v. Roberson -- I'm sorry, Roberson v.
11 Connecticut. That's R-o-b-e-r-s-o-n v. Connecticut,
12 and that is at 501 Fed 2nd 305, a 1974 Second Circuit
13 case, but also cited in State v. Menillo, 159
14 Connecticut 264, a 1970 case. Post-conviction bail
15 is entirely disassociated from the -- as Attorney
16 Davis has indicated, dissociated from the pre-
17 conviction presumption of innocence.

18 However, although there is no constitutional
19 entitlement to bail pending an appeal, there is a
20 common law principle in Connecticut that a judge of
21 the superior court has the discretion to consider the
22 appellant's ability for post-conviction bail. This
23 power to admit is not statutory. I like how you
24 called it a privilege, counsel. That's what I was
25 going to call it. But in a very, very old case,
26 State v. Vaughn, 71 Connecticut 457 -- it's an 1899
27 case but cited again in the case you cited, McCahill.

1 And McCahill is spelled M-c-c-a-h-i-l-l, 261
2 Connecticut 492, a 2002 case. The power to admit
3 bail after conviction is not statutory but common law
4 power. Bail is then a matter of absolute discretion
5 to be exercised by the court, however, with great
6 caution and rarely to be allowed when the crime is
7 serious.

8 This is a very serious crime, as indicated not
9 just by my sentence but also by our legislators
10 placing a mandatory minimum time on it. I do take
11 into consideration similar conditions that I would
12 for a -- in post-conviction that I would for
13 something of someone on arraignment. I will note
14 that I have taken into consideration the defendant
15 has no record until today and that he has been in
16 compliance with his conditions of release. I take
17 that into consideration, and I have to weigh that
18 against the defendant's -- potential public safety
19 that could be compromised. I also have to weigh that
20 against the defendant's sentence and the strengths of
21 the State's case.

22 As I indicated earlier, I was present during the
23 trial. I observed all the witnesses testify. I
24 observed the manner in which they testified. I would
25 be remiss if I didn't comment on this. There's been
26 accusations today that there was coaching done in the
27 back, that there was collusion out in the hallways.

1 I saw none of that. I recall we were in a different
2 courtroom, in 3A, not my floor. I do everything I
3 can to stay off the third floor. So when I was not
4 -- when not in session, I got out of there, I came up
5 here. I didn't see any such collusion.

6 I've got the best viewpoint of anyone in this
7 courtroom, and I didn't see anyone coaching anyone.
8 So would be remiss if I just let that go by. There
9 was no evidence of that whatsoever, and there's been
10 accusations of that that have been leveled several
11 times. Of the speakers today, nineteen of them, at
12 least three of them -- I'm sorry, five of them
13 referenced coaching or nodding. Again, I did not see
14 any of that, but I feel as though I should say that.

15 I've considered all the factors that I would in
16 a pre-conviction such as his lack of convictions. I
17 will say that the appellate claims that counsel has
18 boldly stated has merit and have argued within his
19 motion for a new trial dated 8/8/25 I'm not going to
20 comment on. I will say I'll leave that up to the
21 appellate court. I'm not going to handicap it in any
22 sort of way, but I will tell you this: the jury has
23 spoken, and their verdicts are quite clear, and my
24 sentence is quite clear.

25 I do believe that the defendant is a risk to
26 society. This is one of the most serious cases that
27 will be heard in this courtroom. I've taken into

1 consideration the position of the State, the position
2 of the victim, and I think my ruling is for the
3 protection of the victims and for the community at
4 large. The defendant's motion to set bail pending
5 appeal is hereby denied. Absent anything further, we
6 will adjourn for the day --

7 ATTY. BERKE: Your Honor --

8 THE COURT: Oh, I'm sorry, there's a second
9 file, the Trumbull case, which was transferred here.

10 ATTY. DAVIS: I did convey an offer to Attorney
11 Berke yesterday loosely. I don't think he wants to
12 take action on it today.

13 THE COURT: Sure.

14 ATTY. DAVIS: We can set it down for a new date.
15 I'm not sure what counsel wants to do.

16 ATTY. BERKE: We should pick a new date. Before
17 we do that, as far as the mittimus, would the
18 mittimus -- would the Court allow page 13 of the PSI,
19 which articulates my client's medical history, be
20 attached to the mittimus for medical attention?

21 THE COURT: I am going to attach the entire PSI,
22 but I will ask for medical attention and I will
23 direct corrections -- actually, I'll have Madam Clerk
24 attach 13. So that's that. Look, I don't have to
25 hear the other case. Obviously, I will be in
26 Milford, as I say with a smile. But we'll get it
27 whatever date. What date? September -- we'll make

1 it September 16th.

2 ATTY. BERKE: Your Honor, could I have until the
3 end of the month? I'm going to be on trial in
4 September.

5 THE COURT: Sure.

6 ATTY. BERKE: If I could have the 29th, please.

7 ATTY. DAVIS: No objection.

8 THE COURT: 29th. Costs and fees are imposed.
9 Marshals, stand adjourned. Thank you.

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DOCKET NUMBERS: : SUPERIOR COURT
FBT-CR20-0336784-T
FBT-CR20-0336785-T
FBT-CR20-0339360-T

STATE OF CONNECTICUT : JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF BRIDGEPORT

v. : AT BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

NICHOLAS HALL : AUGUST 14, 2025

E L E C T R O N I C
C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I hereby certify the electronic version is a true and correct transcription of the audio recording of the above-referenced case, heard in Superior Court, Judicial District of Bridgeport, Bridgeport, Connecticut, before the Honorable Peter McShane, Judge, on the 14th day of August, 2025.

Dated this 28th day of August, 2025 in Danielson, Connecticut.

Erin Baxter

Erin Baxter
Court Recording Monitor