STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT TAYLOR COUNTY STATE OF WISCONSIN, PRELIMINARY HEARING Plaintiff, VS. CASE NO: 00-CF-24 ROBERT L. PETERSON, Defendant. HONORABLE GARY L. CARLSON, JUDGE PRESIDING APPEARANCES: MARA JOHNSTON, District Attorney, appeared on behalf of the State of Wisconsin; WRIGHT LAUFENBERG, Attorney at Law, appeared on behalf of the Defendant, Robert L. Peterson. June 29, 2000 Lisa M. Weber, RPR, CRR

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PROCEEDINGS

THE COURT: State of Wisconsin.

MS. JOHNSTON: State of Wisconsin vs. Robert Peterson, 00-CF-24 and 00-CM-2. State appears by District Attorney Mara Johnston. The defendant appears in person with his attorney, Wright Laufenberg.

MR. LAUFENBERG: Judge, we were set this morning for, I believe, a preliminary hearing, I believe, in the felony case. However, the defense has filed a motion to dismiss that allegation. It was filed May 24, and we are prepared to argue that motion first.

THE COURT: You may argue the motion.

MR. LAUFENBERG: Judge, what we have filed on behalf of Mr. Peterson is a motion to dismiss the sexual assault allegation against him for selective prosecution. The basis of this motion, judge, is the underlying charge against Mr. Peterson is that he is alleged to have had sexual relations without the consent and with the threat of use or force against a juvenile J.K.R. who was 15 and a half or 15 and three quarters at the time of these allegations which occurred approximately March, April and May of 1999, the

two separate allegations.

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At the time of these allegations, Mr. Peterson was also a minor under the age of The information contained in the criminal 18. complaint and the other discoverable information confirms that, in fact, a crime was perpetrated upon a body of Mr. Peterson also by the juvenile in this case, that being J.K.R. Basically, judge, under count two of the allegation, it's an allegation of oral sex in a car. Basically there were two boys and two girls and they were girlfriend/boyfriend or some type of a relationship, and the girl, not the alleged victim, made a statement to the police officers that they were driving down the road. These two boys had given them a ride and we will say T for T.A.G.. T.A.G. stated that J.K.R., meaning the victim, turns to her and asks whether or not they, meaning the two girls, were going to give the two boys, quotation marks, blow jobs for giving them a ride in the vehicle. The allegation is then that they did do that.

There is no evidence or there is other evidence from Mr. Peterson that the investigating officers looked into six months ago or nine

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months ago confirming that the aggressor in that criminal action, judge, in initiating that sexual contact was the juvenile girl between a year and three quarters or two years difference in age.

Certainly there is the D.A.'s own information, and from the D.A.'s own charging section of the criminal complaint, there is a crime committed by this girl on Mr. Peterson. Now, I have asked for information and we have no information, and it is our belief that there has been no crime charged against the aggressor in that action, meaning the juvenile girl. was the one that initiated the oral sex. her idea pursuant to her friend's statements to law enforcement. We believe this is a selective prosecution. They're prosecuting the male in this relationship because they believe that somehow this was not consensual or that he was two years older; but according to the laws of the State of Wisconsin, there has been a crime perpetrated on him by this person, and we believe that that is selective prosecution, that it is unfair. That denies the equal protection under the United States constitution and that the charge should be dismissed.

THE COURT: Would you like to respond?

MS. JOHNSTON: Yes. In order for something to be determined as selective prosecution under the law, there are two methods. One, it is a solitary prosecution. In order for the defense to succeed on that type of a motion, he must make a substantial showing that the state's discriminatory selection for prosecution is based on a desire to prevent the exercise of constitutional rights or motivated by personal vindictiveness. That is according to State vs. Barman, B-A-R-M-A-N, 183 Wis 2d 180. That's a Court of Appeals case from 1994. I don't think that the defense is making that claim and has definitely not made that showing.

The other type of selective prosecution is that the defense is claiming that the state has improperly decided to prosecute a defendant based on his membership in a vulnerable group. I believe the defense is claiming today that his vulnerable group is an adult male under the law. Mr. Peterson was, in fact, over the age of 16. He may not have been 18 at the time but he was nonetheless older than the juvenile at the time. He is claiming that a juvenile under the

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age of 16 who cannot give consent under the law could possibly be an aggressor in a sexual situation. In fact, he has not provided the showing that it would be necessary to prove that Mr. Peterson is a member of a vulnerable group.

In fact, the victim in this case is the one who is a member of a vulnerable group as a juvenile female in a sexual situation because the defense cannot prove that in any way Mr. Peterson is a member of such a vulnerable group. The motion based on selective prosecution has to fail. The case determining -- the case -there are several cases regarding selective prosecution. One being State vs. McCollum 159 Wis 2d 184, a court of appeals case from 1990, and that's where the court has stated that the defense has to prove that the defendant is in a member -- is a member of a vulnerable group, which I don't think the defense has done here, and I don't think they can do. I have nothing further.

THE COURT: Response.

MR. LAUFENBERG: Judge, I forget where it was exactly in the state's argument but the state seemed to say that the 16-year-old girl or

and three quarters could not be the aggressor and the initiator, that somehow under the law, you can't -- she can't commit a crime, that she can't be the aggressor in a sexual situation. All of the information that the police have in their possession where three out of the four people involved in the car is that she is the one that says we will give these guys oral sex and they do it.

It is just so inherently unfair under the law to say she is the initiator. The police have all of the information that these girls initiated, perpetrated the act on him, but we will charge him with a sexual assault. I believe that violates the equal protection clause. He is a juvenile under the age of 18.

THE COURT: Juvenile for criminal purposes, that starts at 17.

MR. LAUFENBERG: He is a minor and under the age of 18.

THE COURT: He is an adult for criminal prosecution at age 17.

MR. LAUFENBERG: I'm talking about his role as a victim, judge. As a victim, he is in that class as a minor because he is under the age

of 18.

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THE COURT: Novel argument, Mr. Laufenberg, totally without merit. Absolutely 100 percent no merit. He is 17, an adult for criminal purposes. He has duties. One of those duties is not to succumb to the enticements of a 15-year-old girl because he is supposed to know better. He is not being discriminated against in terms of this prosecution. There is no showing of any personal vindictiveness by the district attorney. He is not a member of a vulnerable group except maybe the vulnerable group of stupid guys, but I don't think they're entitled to constitutional protection. He was 17. She was 15. Under the law, she is the victim, he is not. The court is satisfied that the defense has failed to make a showing that this is a discriminatory prosecution and deny the motion.

MR. LAUFENBERG: A point for the record. You are saying that -- you've just said it is impossible that this girl committed a criminal act. Is that what the court has just ruled? That a girl has been the initiator in a sexual aggression, that she has to a 17-year-old

boy said they were going do this, unzipped his pants, started to have oral sex with them, and you are placing some type of a burden on a 17-year-old boy and you are saying that is not a criminal act by a girl doing this to a gentleman under the age of 18, and I believe Wisconsin statutes has a specific statute that you are not allowed to have sex under the age of 18 and she is having sex under the age of 18. She is the initiator and you are telling us that that is not a crime?

THE COURT: I'm not saying that at all.

MR. LAUFENBERG: That is exactly what you said, Your Honor --

THE COURT: I don't think you should argue with the court, Mr. Laufenberg, because I think you will lose on this argument. The point is this, the state has charged an adult with having sex with a minor who cannot consent to have sex with anybody. Now, whether or not she might be a child in need of protection or services, maybe a juvenile in need of protection and services, perhaps even a delinquent is not relevant. The issue is your client's conduct in

1 his criminal proceeding, not hers, so the court stands by its ruling, it is denied. We will 3 proceed to the preliminary hearing. Call your witnesses. 5 MS. JOHNSTON: State calls Harlan 6 Schwartz. THE COURT: Mr. Schwartz, please step up and the clerk will swear you. 8 9 HARLAN SCHWARTZ, 10 after having been first duly sworn 11 was examined and testified on oath 12 as follows: 13 DIRECT EXAMINATION 14 BY MS. JOHNSTON: 15 Please state your name and spell your last name? 0 16 Harlan Schwartz, S-C-H-W-A-R-T-Z. A 17 And how are you employed? Q 18 I'm a juvenile officer with the Sheriff's 19 Department here in Taylor County. 20 Were you on duty on September 20 of 1999 at Q 21 approximately 8:22 a.m? 22 A Yes, I was. 23 And what were your duties at that time? 0 24 I believe at that time I met with Jerilyn Rakovek A 25 at her residence.

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1	Q D	oid you have occasion on that morning to speak
2		with the defendant?
3	A I	'm not sure. I would need to review my records.
4		here were several incidents of meeting with both
5		he victim
6		MS. JOHNSTON: Your Honor, may the
7	w	itness review his notes to refresh his
8		ecollection?
9		THE COURT: Sure.
10		MR. LAUFENBERG: Judge, we will
11	s	tipulate to I think what the state is seeking
12		o do is confirm that a statement was given to
13		his officer by Mr. Peterson, and they are
14		eeking to use that as a basis for their seeking
15		bind over, and I have no objection to the
16		ntroduction of that document.
17		THE COURT: Any objection to that
18	tl	nen, Ms. Johnston?
19		MS. JOHNSTON: No.
20		THE COURT: The court will receive the
21	do	ocument. Has it been marked?
22		MS. JOHNSTON: Not yet.
23		MR. LAUFENBERG: The September 20,
24	19	99 statement, Ms. Johnston?
25		MS. JOHNSTON: Yes.

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1	THE CLERK: Number one and two being
2	marked.
3	(Exhibit Nos. 1 and 2 were marked for
4	identification.)
5	DIRECT EXAMINATION
6	BY MS. JOHNSTON:
7	Q When you met with Mr. Peterson on September 20,
8	did you first read him his Miranda warnings?
9	A Yes, I did.
10	MR. LAUFENBERG: May I see that, Mara?
11	Judge, I also have no objection for the purposes
12	of today's hearing for the introduction of that
13	document either.
14	THE COURT: The exhibit is received.
15	MS. JOHNSTON: Okay.
16	DIRECT EXAMINATION
17	BY MS. JOHNSTON:
18	Q Did Mr. Peterson ask you any questions about his
19	Miranda warnings at that time?
20	A No, he did not.
21	Q Did he then proceed to give you a statement?
22	A Yes, he did.
23	Q I'm showing you Exhibit 2, which I guess has
24	already been received. When you spoke to
25	Mr. Peterson, did you ask him anything about his

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1		relationship with the juvenile?
2	A	Yes, I did.
3	Q	And what did he tell you?
4	A	He had indicated to me that he had been dating
5		Jerilyn from December until May or June of 1999.
6	Q	And did he tell you anything with regard to the
7		nature of their relationship?
8	A	Robert had indicated that they had been having
9		sex and that I believe he had indicated it had
10		started a month or two after they started dating.
11	Q	Do you know Jerilyn's birth date?
12	А	October of '83.
13	Q	Which would make her how old at the time that
14		Mr. Peterson indicated he was having sex with
15		her?
16	A	Provided that they had broke up in May or June,
17		she would have been, I believe, 16 at the latest
18		point.
19	Q	And at the earliest point when Mr. Peterson
20		admits to having sex with her?
21	A	15.
22	Q	Did Mr. Peterson then sign the statement on
23		Exhibit 2?
24	A	Yes, he did.
25	Q	Did he make any changes?

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1	A	Not that day.
2		MS. JOHNSTON: Nothing further.
3		THE COURT: Mr. Laufenberg.
4		CROSS-EXAMINATION
5	BY MR.	LAUFENBERG:
6	Q	Did he make statements regarding the sexual
7		assault allegation to you, deputy, or excuse me
8		is it investigator?
9	A	Yes. During the statement, yes he did.
10	Q	Are they noted in there by the crossing off of
11		words and initials?
12	A	Yes.
13	Q	You're not saying he made a completely different
14		three-page statement?
15	A	No, I believe it was probably about a month later
16		he had contacted me and advised me there were
17		some parts of his statement that weren't
18		completely correct and we basically did another
19		statement indicating which parts of this one were
20		not correct. I don't believe that any of that
21		next statement had anything to do with the sexual
22		contact between him and Jerilyn.
23	Q	That was related to a different offense?
24	A	Correct.
25	Q	Theré were no major changes other than the little

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1		cross-offs and initials relating to the statement
2		about the sexual assault?
3	A	Right.
4	Q	Okay. It's fair to say, investigator, that in
5		the statement Mr. Peterson gave, he certainly
6		didn't confess to forcing the juvenile to do
7		anything?
8	A	No, I don't believe he did.
9	Q	And he confirmed with relation to this incident
10		in the car at least in his opinion that she was
11		the aggressor and she is the one that initiated
12		that contact?
13	A	That was his version to me, yes.
14	Q	And that was also the version of the other
15		gentleman in the car, that being
16	A	Mr. Bacon.
17	Q	is that correct?
18	A	Yes.
19	Q	And also the version of the other female in the
20		car, that being T.A.G.?
21	A	Yeah, I don't believe I was able to get a
22		statement from her but
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24		THE COURT: Her being T.A.G.? THE WITNESS: Correct
25		CROSS-EXAMINATION.
		TARMITMATION.
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1	BY MR.	LAUFENBERG:
2	Q	You received a copy of the one she gave to Wood
3		County?
4	A	Yes.
5	Q	And the only one with a different story on what
6		happened in that vehicle was the alleged victim
7		in this case J.K.R.?
8	A	Correct.
9		MR. LAUFENBERG: Okay. Thank you,
10		investigator. I have no further questions.
11		MS. JOHNSTON: I have nothing further,
12		Your Honor, and I don't have any further
13		witnesses either.
14		THE COURT: You may step down, sir.
15		(The witness was excused.)
16		
17		MR. LAUFENBERG: Judge, I have no witnesses on this issue at this time.
18		
19	,	THE COURT: Any further argument then?
20		MS. JOHNSTON: Your Honor,
21		Investigator Schwartz testified that Mr. Peterson
22		gave him a statement admitting that he had sexual
23		intercourse with Ms. Rakovek. He testified that
24		her date of birth was 1983; and during the time
25		period when Mr. Peterson admits to having sexual
		relationship with her, she would have been 15 and

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at some point turned 16. The state believes that the evidence presented constitutes probable cause to believe that a felony was committed and that it was committed by the defendant and asks the court to bind him over for trial.

THE COURT: Mr. Laufenberg.

MR. LAUFENBERG: Judge, I would agree that that forms the basis of a belief that a felony was committed. It certainly does not form the basis that the charges in the criminal complaint were proven in any way, shape or form because those allegations allege the use of force. I have no further argument, judge.

THE COURT: The court is satisfied there is probable cause to believe that a felony was committed and probable cause to believe that Mr. Peterson did commit the felony. The court will bind him over for arraignment. prepared for an information this morning?

MS. JOHNSTON: I am not. I ask that arraignment be held on July 11 at normal criminal intake at a time when Mr. Laufenberg would be available.

> THE COURT: Do you have a time? MS. JOHNSTON: 2:00, Your Honor.

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1		THE COURT: So ordered. 2:00 on
2	July 11.	Bond continued?
3		MS. JOHNSTON: Please.
4		THE COURT: Then court is in recess.
5		(The record was concluded at this
6	point.)	
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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF WISCONSIN)

COUNTY OF TAYLOR) ss.

I, Lisa M. Weber, official court reporter/notary public, do certify that the attached transcript is a true and accurate transcript of my stenotype notes transcribed by me and that the same is a true and correct record of the proceedings held on the 29th day of June, 2000.

DATED THIS 18TH DAY OF APRIL, 2003.

LISA M. WEBER, RPR, CRR