



OFFICE OF THE STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER

MEGAN A. RING
STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER

April 17, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

Dean Beers, from Associates in Forensic Investigations LLC, was essential in helping our office develop a strong defense in a recent Class 2 Felony Homicide charge. This homicide case was ultimately *dismissed* the week before the jury trial was set to begin. Dean reviewed the discovery in the case and was prepared to testify, at trial, as an Expert in Forensic Death Investigation. In addition to consulting with our office, Dean provided recommendations for other experts we sought in various fields. This saved us valuable time and resources; allowing us to focus on other tasks in preparation for trial.

The defense theory in this case strongly relied upon the testimony of Dean, as an Expert in the field of Forensic Death Investigation. The cause of death was ruled as “exsanguination and aspiration due to severe sharp force injuries of the neck.” The Decedent was found in his bedroom with a gaping wound to the neck, along with several minor sharp force injuries to the neck area. The Decedent had been deceased for up to 24 hours; taking into account the last time he communicated with anyone. The evidence the Prosecution relied heavily upon was a few strands of the Defendant’s hair located on the Decedent’s hand. In our review of the case discovery and speaking with the Defendant, we came to believe this was a suicide not a homicide. The Defendant had been at the Decedent’s home approximately ten days prior to his death. We proposed the hairs found stuck to the Decedent’s hands adhered to the blood during the suicide; after being naturally shed during the Defendant’s stay in the home.

Dean was tasked with analyzing a vast amount of photos, police reports, medical reports and the autopsy report. Dean reviewed all discovery in order to testify that his opinion was based on his complete review of the information available in this case. After assessment of the discovery, Dean was able to confirm our theory that the Decedent committed suicide and no evidence of another individual being present at the time of the act was found. Based on Dean’s knowledge and experience, Dean provided an estimated time of death, narrowed down to a few hours. Using this information, we were able to strengthen our alibi portion of the defense. The Defendant was shown, via cell phone records, to be over two hours away in the presence of other independent witnesses, at the estimated time of the Decedent’s death. Dean’s opinion of this being a suicide was in agreement with the Blood Stain Analysis Expert we consulted with. The District Attorney was informed of our expert witnesses’ opinions, that would be solicited at trial; facilitating the dismissal of the case.

Dean provided a very thorough and professional investigation. Dean was readily available to consult with our office, throughout the tenure of the case, and he provided monthly updates regarding his work. Dean worked efficiently to provide us timely results of his death investigation; enabling us to

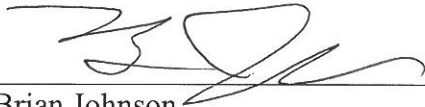
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develop our theory of defense in the early stages of trial preparation. Throughout our trial preparation, we spoke with Dean multiple times and each time we gained better insight on effectively presenting our evidence at trial. Dean not only is an expert in his field, but also has a comprehensive understanding of court proceedings and jury trials. We are confident Dean will provide strong testimony in any court proceeding, especially jury trials.

It is without hesitation that we recommend Dean Beers, of Associates in Forensic Death Investigation LLC, for any death/injury investigation needs. Dean's expertise in this area of investigations is superior. Dean will provide an honest investigation utilizing scientific facts to establish an unbiased expert opinion.

If you have any questions or would like to further discuss the qualifications of Dean Beers, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully,



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