

{N07M-CR23-0354803-S : SUPERIOR COURT
STATE OF CONNECTICUT : G.A. #7
v. : AT MERIDEN, CONNECTICUT
TALON VADASZ-BUCKHOUT : MARCH 27, 2024

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

BEFORE THE HONORABLE THOMAS O'KEEFE, JUDGE TRIAL REFEREE

A P P E A R A N C E S :

Representing the State of Connecticut:

ATTORNEY BRIAN SIBLEY
Office of the State's Attorney
54 West Main Street
Meriden, Connecticut 06451

Representing the Defendant:

ATTORNEY JONATHAN SILLS
The Sills Law Firm
645 Farmington Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06105

Recorded and Transcribed By:
Christine A. Elkins
Court Recording Monitor II
54 West Main Street
Meriden, Connecticut 06451

1 ATTY. SIBLEY: Good morning, Judge. Brian
2 Sibley, for the State. The next matter is going to
3 be found on the regular docket, line number seven.
4 The last name is hyphenated, Vadasz-Buckhout.
5 V=a-d-a-s-z - B-u-c-k-- I believe it's --h-o-t.

6 THE COURT: Okay.

7 ATTY. SILLS: Good morning, your Honor.
8 Jonathan Sills, on behalf of Mr. Vadasz-Buckhout.
9 And if I may have one moment with my client before we
10 proceed?

11 THE COURT: Yeah. Yeah.

12 ATTY. SILLS: Your Honor, thank you, very much,
13 for your indulgence. We had applied for Accelerated
14 Rehabilitation on the last court date.

15 THE COURT: Okay.

16 ATTY. SILLS: In reviewing the discovery, there
17 was a single individual who was identified as a
18 victim in the matter. I did send notice -- or
19 attempt to send notice to that individual. It came
20 back as reclaimed -- return to sender, unclaimed,
21 unable to forward.

22 THE COURT: Okay.

23 ATTY. SILLS: So, I would ask to approach and
24 offer this, for the record.

25 THE COURT: Okay. Alright. Sometimes people
26 get the notice and they -- and they don't accept it,
27 but they show up, anywhere -- anyway. Anybody here

1 interested in this case? No response. Any -- yes,
2 sir? Come on up, and identify yourself and we'll see
3 what's going on. Tell us your name.

4 MR. WORTZ: Thank you, your Honor. My name is
5 Kieth WORTZ. And I'm here today, as a friend of the
6 Court.

7 THE COURT: Well, are you interested in this
8 case, in any way? Do you have any standing to
9 address the Court on this case?

10 MR. WORTZ: I am not an identified victim in
11 this particular case.

12 THE COURT: Okay. What -- what -- usually we --

13 ATTY. SILLS: Your Honor --

14 THE COURT: -- why -- yes, sir?

15 ATTY. SILLS: In light of that, I would -- I
16 would object to any testimony from an individual who
17 does not have standing on the grounds of relevance,
18 as well, your Honor.

19 THE COURT: I'll listen. I'll note your
20 objection. I'll listen, briefly, to whatever you
21 have to say.

22 MR. WORTZ: Thank you, your Honor. I appreciate
23 that. I came here, today, because I understand that
24 this is for an Accelerated Rehabilitation offer. And
25 what I would like to say is I'm a 57-year-old father
26 of five daughters. I'm a retired police detective.
27 I have 38 years of diverse experience with the

1 criminal justice system. And I know this Defendant.

2 I know him because one of my daughters, who is a
3 caring, loving soul, can't -- came to know him.

4 THE COURT: Hold on. Let me stop you, right
5 there. Is this -- are you here to object because on
6 a previous occasion, unrelated to this case, you're
7 the parent of someone who was involved with this
8 person and you're not satisfied with what happened
9 with the case?

10 MR. WORTZ: Correct, your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Okay. So, the details -- that case,
12 was it handled in juvenile court?

13 MR. WORTZ: Yes, it was, your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Okay. The laws of the State of
15 Connecticut, which I did not pass, make those
16 proceedings confidential. You're kind of getting
17 into that. I could -- let me see if we agree on
18 this. You don't think he's an appropriate candidate
19 for Accelerated Rehabilitation?

20 MR. WORTZ: I do not, sir.

21 THE COURT: Okay. I think if we went beyond
22 that, that -- and I can imagine why you're here and
23 why you're upset and a lot of us are parents. Okay.
24 You just don't think he should get AR. Right?

25 MR. WORTZ: Without getting into the specifics,
26 if you prefer that I not --

27 THE COURT: Well, I think -- I think it's a

1 matter of law. You say you have experience.

2 MR. WORTZ: Right.

3 THE COURT: Juvenile matters are confidential.

4 And I -- I don't know what the disposition was.

5 Apparently, you're not happy with it, which I
6 understand. But I don't even know if I can get into
7 those -- those facts if I wanted to.

8 MR. WORTZ: I understand that. Yes, and I
9 certainly, can appreciate that, your Honor. I do not
10 think that he is a good candidate for this program
11 based on the final element, which is is the -- is the
12 Defendant unlikely to offend again.

13 THE COURT: Mm-hmm.

14 MR. WORTZ: I'm sure he's eligible. Does this
15 threatening rise to the level of a serious nature?
16 Probably not. The third level, without getting into
17 details, things that were adjudicated through
18 California's juvenile system, as well as Connecticut
19 system --

20 ATTY. SILLS: Your Honor, I -- I object to this
21 line of --

22 THE COURT: Okay.

23 ATTY. SILLS: It's completely irrelevant. He
24 was found eligible for this program.

25 THE COURT: Okay.

26 ATTY. SILLS: There are certain standards that
27 this Court has for eligibility.

1 THE COURT: I think we've gone far enough on
2 the juvenile matter, as we can.

3 MR. WORTZ: Okay. And one other thing, your
4 Honor, that is outside the juvenile matter, this
5 Court, thankfully, did hear an application for a
6 civil protective order. This Court did grant that
7 civil protective order.

8 THE COURT: Okay. That's good.

9 MR. WORTZ: And the details of the underlying
10 crimes were contained within that civil protective
11 order.

12 THE COURT: Okay.

13 MR. WORTZ: And the basis of the offense which
14 led to the civil protective order happened nearly
15 three weeks after something was adjudicated, which
16 we're not going to get into, I guess.

17 THE COURT: Okay.

18 MR. WORTZ: So, based on that, I think that
19 given all of those elements, it's a clear indication
20 that he is likely to offend again.

21 THE COURT: Okay. So, thank you. Okay. Thank
22 you.

23 MR. WORTZ: Thank you, your Honor.

24 THE COURT: Alright. Thank you for coming
25 down. This job isn't easy. Like I said, I don't
26 pass the laws that I'm expected to respect. Some of
27 them, I don't agree with. I agree with most of them.

1 I'm not trying to cop out here. The Legislature
2 decided that for, in certain cases, there should be
3 diversionary programs. And there's a lot of them.
4 And when I started in the Court system 50 years ago,
5 there weren't that many. So, I've been witness to
6 the -- to the development of the -- of these
7 diversionary programs. And, for the most part, I
8 think they're a good thing. Because none of us are
9 the same people we were when we were 18-years-old.
10 A lot of us are better people. Some of us aren't.

11 The problem for a judge, in ruling on these,
12 especially when it comes to future actions, it is
13 that we don't have a crystal ball. I can't look into
14 the future. So, I'm doing the best I can. I can,
15 kind of, imagine what the original incident that
16 you're talking about involves. And this -- this
17 activity -- and I read the report, in detail, more
18 than once, and it's totally unrelated to the previous
19 type of incident.

20 It's more evidence -- it is more evidence that
21 the Defendant has serious problems in his life that
22 he has to deal with. But as far as this incident,
23 there was a tragic event in his -- in his life. Not
24 an excuse for him drinking too much. Drinking too
25 much is not an isolated incident for him, in the
26 past. And that's an issue that he's going to have
27 to deal with, or else he'll be a regular customer

1 here.

2 There are -- there may be other issues in his
3 life that the alcohol consumption is a red flag for.
4 He may have emotional issues that he didn't pick to
5 have, that he's going to have to deal with. People
6 can control those issues. People can control
7 drinking. People can, through assistance of their
8 family and therapy, and sometimes medication, deal
9 with emotional problems.

10 So, that's what the program like Accelerated
11 Rehabilitation is for. The incident, itself,
12 involved him drinking too much and saying things
13 which it looks like he had no intention of carrying
14 out. Hurting other people. He was -- he had a
15 knife and was waving it around. And he was disarmed
16 by a young girl of his same age. So, that kind of
17 puts it all into perspective. It might have -- it
18 might have happened twice.

19 He was cooperative with the police. He has
20 issues. They have to be dealt with. I understand
21 your -- your -- your objection. I'm doing the best
22 I can. I'm going to try and create a situation
23 where he doesn't get in trouble again. There's no
24 more victims, and he can go on and live a normal
25 life.

26 The State want to add any remarks? You object?

27 ATTY. SIBLEY: The Court's discretion, Judge,

1 based on the conversations we've had, previously.

2 THE COURT: Okay. What do you want to say,
3 Counsel?

4 ATTY. SILLS: Just a few remarks, your Honor.
5 As your Honor knows, Mr. Vadasz-Buckhout, he's --
6 he's 18-years-old. This incident, or this arrest, I
7 believe, occurred in October of last year. Around
8 the same time, there was a civil restraining order
9 that was put in place. He has not contested that
10 order. As far as I am aware, there is no indications
11 or allegations that he has violated any Court order.
12 He's since moved to the State of North Carolina.

13 THE COURT: Okay.

14 ATTY. SILLS: He's separated himself from a lot
15 of what was here and what was going on at the time.
16 He's come back. He's traveled back, at his own
17 expense, to Connecticut, on three separate occasions
18 for Court dates. So, he does have an established
19 record, in my opinion, of complying with Court orders
20 and Court obligations.

21 I do think that the allegations, as posed in the
22 arrest report, as well as the charges that he's
23 facing aren't so serious that an individual who is
24 18-years-old, had a lot going on in his life, clearly
25 as your Honor has read, by the letter that he wrote
26 to the Court, prior to me even being -- getting
27 involved in this case, is not the person that,

1 probably, he is -- he is inside.

2 He's a different person. He has -- he has
3 aspirations to do -- to do good things, your Honor.
4 At the time he first contacted me, he was trying to
5 get into the military. Those are still his
6 aspirations. He's since put that on hold to deal
7 with these issues that we've talked about, today.
8 He's given me documentation that he's seen two
9 separate therapists. It's taken him a while to --
10 sort of -- find the right person. But he does have
11 appointments set up for regular therapy, next week.
12 I believe it's April fourth, by the documentation
13 that he's provided me with.

14 So, I think by all accounts, he's doing the
15 right things. And since this incident happened, I
16 don't think that there's a single thing that anyone
17 could point to that would evidence that he's unlikely
18 to offend again, in the future. Certainly nothing
19 that I've seen, or nothing that I've read.

20 So, I think your Honor should be able to find,
21 in light of all that, he's unlikely to offend again
22 in the future. And if he does, your Honor, he's
23 18-years-old. He's got a long life and a long,
24 hopefully, positive future ahead of him. Using AR at
25 such a young age, it's not an insignificant thing,
26 your Honor.

27 If your Honor grants AR and he completes it,

1 he's going to have to go at least ten years, and
2 probably the rest of his life without any allegations
3 of this type. Or he'll find himself back in a
4 courtroom, like this, likely with a permanent
5 criminal record. I think that individuals such as
6 him are really the type of individuals that the
7 Legislature created these programs for, so that they
8 could, hopefully, move forward in life and their
9 careers without the stains of having a permanent
10 criminal record.

11 So, I would ask your Honor to grant the program,
12 on his behalf, with whatever conditions your Honor
13 sees fit, and for whatever time-period your Honor
14 sees fit.

15 THE COURT: Alright. So, I read the letter.
16 Some letters are -- I mean -- you could describe some
17 of the letters as sorry -- you know -- like kids
18 say when you -- they've done something wrong. Sorry.
19 It's not that type of letter. He, with regard to
20 this incident, which is the only one that I'm
21 dealing with, he -- he appears to be sorry and
22 ashamed. And he appears to be -- and I don't know
23 everything. I'm just a human being just like the
24 rest of you. And he appears to be at a stage where
25 he might have realized what's -- what's wrong in
26 his life and he's going to take steps to deal with
27 it.

1 You can -- you probably can't drink your whole
2 life. Because that's -- you just can't. And you
3 really don't need any more evidence of that. Some
4 people can't drink, anything, ever. And they take it
5 a day at a time, and they're very successful.
6 Sometimes they have to take medicine. Sometimes they
7 have to talk to a counselor. That might be your
8 future. But if you go down that path, you'll be a
9 lot happier, and everybody will be safer. And you'll
10 have more friends and you might have a happy life.
11 Okay? Which is what we're all here for.

12 I'm going to grant the AR. I'll make the
13 appropriate findings. I'll grant the AR. It's for a
14 period of one year. You have to cooperate with any
15 kind of treatment that's designated by probation.
16 It'll probably be whatever the counselor recommends
17 as a result of your appointment next week, I believe.
18 No alcohol. And -- you know -- I know that you want
19 to go into the service. You've got to straighten out
20 these issues in your life before you end up at Boot
21 Camp. Because Boot Camp is tough. You know, going
22 through this period of supervision for one year, not
23 drinking, seeing a counselor, maybe taking some
24 medication to get you back on the right track, having
25 a regular job -- having a nine-to-five job, and
26 having people give you orders, and getting a
27 paycheck, that might set you up for, maybe, down the

1 line, for being a good soldier. Who knows? But
2 maybe not right at this moment. Okay?

3 From what I'm understand, the civil order is
4 still in effect. Abide by that civil restraining
5 order. That's very important. You can see that
6 there are people that are upset with your past
7 behavior. I don't want to go into that. But it's
8 part of your whole picture. Okay? So, deal with it
9 in a responsible, adult manner. Alright?

10 MR. VADASZ-BUCKHOUT: Yes, sir.

11 THE COURT: Very good. Program is granted. You
12 have to pay the program fee. You have to go see the
13 people from Probation before you leave. Okay?

14 MR. VADASZ-BUCKHOUT: Okay.

15 THE COURT: The case is set down for one year
16 from today's date, which will be March 26, 2025.
17 Okay?

18 ATTY. SILLS: Thank you, your Honor.

19 MR. VADASZ-BUCKHOUT: Thank you.

20 THE COURT: It's obvious that the person came
21 to speak with regard to this case is upset. Don't
22 have any contact with that person, in the courthouse
23 or around the courthouse. Okay.

24 MR. VADASZ-BUCKHOUT: Okay.

25 THE COURT: I'm sure your attorney will advise
26 you in that regard. Alright?

27 ATTY. SILLS: Thank you, your Honor.

1 THE COURT: Alright. Thank you, sir. Okay?

2 (THIS MATTER WAS CONCLUDED)

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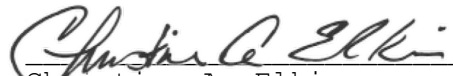
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E L E C T R O N I C
C E R T I F I C A T I O N

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, G.A. #7, Meriden, Connecticut, before the Honorable Thomas O'Keefe, Judge Trial Referee, on the 27th day of March, 2024.

Dated this 28th day of May, 2024 in Meriden, Connecticut.


Christine A. Elkins
Court Recording Monitor II