

D03D-CR25-0199838-S : SUPERIOR COURT
STATE OF CONNECTICUT : G.A. #3
v. : AT DANBURY, CONNECTICUT
EDWARD PRATTE, III : JANUARY 8, 2026

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

BEFORE THE HONORABLE THOMAS J. SAADI, JUDGE

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

Representing the State of Connecticut:

ATTORNEY MATTHEW KNOFF
Office of the State's Attorney
146 White Street
Danbury, Connecticut 06810

Representing the Defendant:

ATTORNEY JOHN MAXWELL
Brown Paindiris & Scott LLP
2252 Main Street
Glastonbury, Connecticut 06033

Recorded by:
Catherine Fitzgerald

Transcribed By:
Rachel Christophy
Court Recording Monitor
146 White Street
Danbury, Connecticut 06810

1 ATTY. KNOPF: Good morning, Your Honor.

2 Attorney Matthew Knopf for the State. Do --

3 THE COURT: Yeah.

4 ATTY. KNOPF: Do you want a second?

5 THE COURT: No.

6 ATTY. KNOPF: Okay. I'm sorry. I don't have
7 the regular docket line. Edward Pratte.

8 THE COURT: Yes.

9 ATTY. MAXWELL: Good morning, Your Honor. For
10 the record, I'm John Maxwell for Mr. Pratte, who is
11 coming forward.

12 THE COURT: Good morning, Attorney Maxwell, and
13 good morning, Mr. Pratte.

14 THE CLERK: Line twenty-nine regular.

15 ATTY. KNOPF: Thank you.

16 THE COURT: Yes.

17 ATTY. KNOPF: Your Honor, I've reviewed the
18 file. I was also the one who signed the warrant.
19 Your Honor, as to the larceny charges, Your Honor,
20 the State, while we had probable cause, we can't
21 maintain the charges as the money has been moved to
22 the civil case, and the civil court has yet to rule.

23 As to the forgery charges, Your Honor, the State
24 is considering that arrest to be sufficient as there
25 was probable cause for that, Your Honor. There were
26 documents that were improperly made. Your Honor,
27 based on my review of the file, the State's position

1 would be to nolle this case. The case will be
2 handled by the civil court, and the State is not
3 looking to move forward.

4 THE COURT: The State's basis for the
5 prosecutorial discretion and --

6 ATTY. KNOFF: Yes, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: -- nolle is the issue of being able
8 to prove beyond a reasonable doubt?

9 ATTY. KNOFF: Yes, Your Honor. Your Honor,
10 while there's -- was clear action of forgery, Your
11 Honor, the funds themselves, there's an open question
12 at the moment, based on actions in the civil case
13 that proceeded recently, whereby the financial
14 institution holding those funds turned them over to
15 the civil court. The criminal court is not the place
16 to be, you know, arguing over the funds. It's a
17 civil matter, Your Honor. It'll be handled there.

18 Essentially, that was the State's goal when it
19 signed the warrant was to ensure that proper
20 processes were followed as the State was presented
21 with these improper documents. And as to those
22 improper documents, Your Honor, I believe arrest is
23 sufficient. In the end, new documents were executed
24 later, at a later date after the warrant was reviewed
25 that were proper. So, there's also an open question
26 there as to intent. So, the State is entering a
27 nolle and exercising prosecutorial discretion. Ms.

1 Kristine Kellas, the Victim Advocate, does want to
2 make a statement on behalf of the complainant briefly
3 --

4 THE COURT: Yes.

5 ATTY. KNOPF: -- if Your Honor would allow it.

6 THE COURT: Certainly. I will note that we did
7 have brief -- the Victim Advocate did mention ahead
8 of time that the victim would like to be heard on
9 this matter. Certainly.

10 VICTIM ADVOCATE: That's correct, Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Ms. Kellas?

12 VICTIM ADVOCATE: I appreciate your time.

13 Unfortunately, while the complainant was appreciative
14 of the Court being willing to hear him, this is an
15 emotional matter for him. After discussing, he had
16 just asked me to state on the record his objection
17 and disagreement with what the State had provided and
18 their position of nolleing case. So, I just wanted
19 to make a clear record of his objection to this
20 nolle.

21 THE COURT: Thank you. Attorney Maxwell? I
22 mean, before I hear from Attorney Maxwell, I will
23 note that the -- nolleing the matter based on what
24 the -- the information that Attorney Knopf has put on
25 the record, that's within the State's discretion.
26 The Court does not overrule a nolle.

27 That being said, I don't know if you want to be

1 heard. Anything further, Attorney Maxwell? You're -
2 - the State is entering a nolle, and the Court
3 intends to, while noting the complainant's objection,
4 to note that nolle and for that nolle to enter.

5 ATTY. MAXWELL: Very well, Your Honor. I just
6 want to add for the record I did quite a bit of work
7 and submitted to counsel a very detailed memo, and I
8 think, while there may have been probable cause for
9 the arrest, I think he would have had a difficult
10 time proving beyond a reasonable doubt the charge,
11 but be that as it may, there was new information that
12 I provided. I think had my client been interviewed
13 or agreed to an interview in advance of the arrest,
14 that might have gotten us to a different place.

15 THE COURT: I understand, and --

16 ATTY. MAXWELL: All kinds of things, Your Honor.

17 THE COURT: -- this -- and this is not --

18 ATTY. MAXWELL: I appreciate the nolle.

19 THE COURT: Wait. One -- just one -- this is --

20 ATTY. MAXWELL: I appreciate the nolle. That's
21 all I'm saying.

22 THE COURT: You're accept -- understood. This
23 is not a trial or a hearing on the --

24 ATTY. MAXWELL: No, I know, Your Honor, but I
25 just wanted to say a few things.

26 THE COURT: All right. Attorney Maxwell -- not
27 speak over each other. I am hard of hearing, and we

1 want a clear transcript. So, I'm just making the
2 record clear. The State is entering a nolle for the
3 reason put on the record. Attorney Maxwell, your
4 comments have been noted.

5 ATTY. MAXWELL: Thank you.

6 THE COURT: Appreciate your providing infor-
7 mation to the State. There is seized property.
8 These are the documents, and I presume no claim.
9 There are no --

10 ATTY. MAXWELL: None.

11 THE COURT: There are no co-defendants in this
12 matter.

13 ATTY. KNOPF: No, Your Honor. There are not.

14 THE COURT: Nolle is noted. Property is ordered
15 destroyed.

16 ATTY. MAXWELL: Thank you, Your Honor.

17 THE COURT: We're all set here.

18 (The matter was concluded.)

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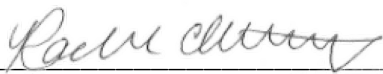
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E L E C T R O N I C
C E R T I F I C A T I O N

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. #3, Danbury, Connecticut, before the Honorable Thomas J. Saadi, Judge, on the 8th day of January, 2026.

Dated this 10th day of February, 2026 in Danbury, Connecticut.



Rachel Christophy
Court Recording Monitor