

NON-PRECEDENTIAL DECISION - SEE SUPERIOR COURT I.O.P. 65.37

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA : IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
: PENNSYLVANIA

v.

GREGORY LEWIS

Appellant

No. 3405 EDA 2019

Appeal from the Judgment of Sentence Entered June 20, 2019
In the Court of Common Pleas of Northampton County Criminal Division
at No(s): CP-48-CR-0001059-2018

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA : IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
: PENNSYLVANIA

v.

GREGORY LEWIS JR.

Appellant

No. 3407 EDA 2019

Appeal from the Judgment of Sentence Entered June 20, 2019
In the Court of Common Pleas of Northampton County Criminal Division
at No(s): CP-48-CR-0001520-2017

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA : IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
: PENNSYLVANIA

v.

GREGORY LEWIS JR.

Appellant

No. 3408 EDA 2019

Appeal from the Judgment of Sentence Entered June 20, 2019
In the Court of Common Pleas of Northampton County Criminal Division
at No(s): CP-48-CR-0003777-2017

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA : IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
: PENNSYLVANIA

v.

GREGORY LEWIS JR.

Appellant

No. 3409 EDA 2019

Appeal from the Judgment of Sentence Entered June 20, 2019
In the Court of Common Pleas of Northampton County Criminal Division
at No(s): CP-48-CR-0003172-2017

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
PENNSYLVANIA

v.

GREGORY LEWIS JR.

Appellant

No. 3410 EDA 2019

Appeal from the Judgment of Sentence Entered June 20, 2019
In the Court of Common Pleas of Northampton County Criminal Division
at No(s): CP-48-CR-0001529-2018

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
PENNSYLVANIA

v.

GREGORY LEWIS JR.

Appellant

No. 3411 EDA 2019

Appeal from the Judgment of Sentence Entered June 20, 2019
In the Court of Common Pleas of Northampton County Criminal Division
at No(s): CP-48-CR-0001795-2017

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
PENNSYLVANIA

v.

GREGORY LEWIS JR. :
: Appellant : No. 3414 EDA 2019

Appeal from the Judgment of Sentence Entered June 20, 2019
In the Court of Common Pleas of Northampton County Criminal Division
at No(s): CP-48-CR-0001528-2018

BEFORE: BENDER, P.J.E., OLSON, J., and STRASSBURGER, J.*

MEMORANDUM BY OLSON, J.:

FILED DECEMBER 18, 2020

Appellant, Gregory Lewis, Jr., appeals from the judgment of sentence entered on June 20, 2019, as made final by the denial of Appellant's post-sentence motion on October 23, 2019. During the pendency of this direct appeal, Appellant filed an "Application for Remand," where Appellant requested that we remand this case to the trial court, so that the trial court may conduct an evidentiary hearing on Appellant's after-discovered evidence claim. We grant Appellant's Application for Remand and thus remand this case for further proceedings.

The trial court summarized the underlying facts of this case:

On November 21, 2016, [Appellant and Appellant's co-defendant, Vaughn Felix ("Felix") attempted to kidnap] Michael Davis, for the purpose of facilitating a robbery of the Verizon store in Forks Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania. That kidnapping attempt resulted in the death of Mr. Davis[.]

On November 22, 2016, [Appellant and Felix kidnapped] Michael Derosé, again for the purpose of facilitating a robbery of the Verizon store in Forks Township. Mr. Derosé escaped his captors and that robbery was not completed[.]

* Retired Senior Judge assigned to the Superior Court.

Both [of the above two] incidents followed a planning period in which [Appellant and Felix] staked out the Forks Township Verizon store, made a plan to kidnap store managers to let them into the store after hours, and followed Mr. Davis and Mr. Derosé home after work to learn where they lived in order to facilitate the kidnappings. When [this] method failed after two attempts, [Appellant] and Felix moved on to another method of robbery, arriving at their chosen locations at or near closing time in order to ensure that they would remain undetected. To that end, [Appellant] and Felix arrived at J.C. Jewelers in Easton, Northampton County, Pennsylvania on December 23, 2016, entered the store, restrained the store employee, and stole items and cash valued at \$70,000.00[.]

On January 5, 2017, utilizing the same method of late arrival and employee restraint, [Appellant] and Felix robbed the AT&T store in Bethlehem Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, stealing approximately \$49,000.00 of electronic items[.]

On January 16, 2017, [Appellant and Felix] used this same method to rob the Verizon store in South Whitehall Township, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania, stealing \$27,000.00 worth of merchandise[.]

Finally, on February 16, 2017, [Appellant and Felix] robbed the Verizon store in Wind Gap, Northampton County, Pennsylvania during inclement weather when no customers were present or likely to arrive, stealing items and cash totaling approximately \$40,000.00[.]

After an investigation, [Appellant] was arrested on March 6, 2017, and found to be in possession of a cell phone and a tablet that had been stolen from one of the Verizon stores.

Trial Court Opinion, 10/23/19, at 2-3.

The jury found Appellant guilty of: one count of second degree murder; five counts of robbery; six counts of conspiracy to commit robbery; two counts of attempted robbery; one count of robbery of a motor vehicle; one count of conspiracy to commit robbery of a motor vehicle; seven counts of kidnapping;

seven counts of conspiracy to commit kidnapping; one count of attempted kidnapping; three counts of simple assault; three counts of conspiracy to commit simple assault; four counts of false imprisonment; one count of unlawful restraint; four counts of theft by unlawful taking; two counts of attempted theft by unlawful taking; four counts of receiving stolen property; three counts of possession of a firearm with intent to employ it criminally; and one count of possession of an instrument of crime.¹

On June 20, 2019, the trial court sentenced Appellant to serve an aggregate term of life in prison, followed by a consecutive term of 113 years and 11 months to 227 years and 10 months in prison, for his convictions. Following the denial of Appellant's post-sentence motion, Appellant filed a timely notice of appeal.

On December 2, 2020, while Appellant's direct appeal was pending in this Court, Appellant filed an application for remand, based upon a claim of after-discovered evidence. Within Appellant's application, Appellant averred that his co-defendant, Vaughn Felix, "will now testify that any and all statements [Felix] made implicating [Appellant] in the Northampton County criminal homicide, attempted abduction, and commercial armed robberies were coerced or otherwise involuntary and false statements . . . and that

¹ 18 Pa.C.S.A. §§ 2502(c), 3701(a)(1)(ii), 903(a)(1), 901(a), 3702(a), 903(a)(1), 2901(a)(2), 903(a)(1), 901(a), 2701(a)(3), 903(a)(1), 2903(a), 2902(a)(1), 3921(a), 901(a), 3925(a), 907(b), and 907(a), respectively.

Explore Litigation Insights

Docket Alarm provides insights to develop a more informed litigation strategy and the peace of mind of knowing you're on top of things.

Real-Time Litigation Alerts



Keep your litigation team up-to-date with **real-time alerts** and advanced team management tools built for the enterprise, all while greatly reducing PACER spend.

Our comprehensive service means we can handle Federal, State, and Administrative courts across the country.

Advanced Docket Research



With over 230 million records, Docket Alarm's cloud-native docket research platform finds what other services can't. Coverage includes Federal, State, plus PTAB, TTAB, ITC and NLRB decisions, all in one place.

Identify arguments that have been successful in the past with full text, pinpoint searching. Link to case law cited within any court document via Fastcase.

Analytics At Your Fingertips



Learn what happened the last time a particular judge, opposing counsel or company faced cases similar to yours.

Advanced out-of-the-box PTAB and TTAB analytics are always at your fingertips.

API

Docket Alarm offers a powerful API (application programming interface) to developers that want to integrate case filings into their apps.

LAW FIRMS

Build custom dashboards for your attorneys and clients with live data direct from the court.

Automate many repetitive legal tasks like conflict checks, document management, and marketing.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Litigation and bankruptcy checks for companies and debtors.

E-DISCOVERY AND LEGAL VENDORS

Sync your system to PACER to automate legal marketing.