

In Session Facebook postings from Drew Peterson murder trial – 8/3/2012

Judge Burmila takes the bench. “Good morning, everyone . . . are we ready for the jury?” Prosecutor Kathy Patton says that the next witness will be Anna Doman, “Our first statement witness . . . among the statements that Judge White did find admissible. Anna Doman was present at Kathleen Savio Peterson’s residence the morning after the body was found. And at that time, her sister made a statement in the presence of the defendant, ‘Why did you kill my sister?’ I am not going to elicit that statement, and I want the Court to know I have told the witness not to say that.” Judge Burmila: “OK.” The judge sends for the jurors.

The jurors are now in the courtroom, and the State calls its first witness of the day: Anna Doman (to be questioned by prosecutor Kathy Patton). Doman is the sister of Kathleen Savio Peterson. “I’m Kathleen Savio Peterson’s older sister . . . we called her ‘Kitty;’ that was her nickname.” The witness identifies a photograph of Savio. “That’s my sister, Kitty . . . that’s her bathroom.” “Did you know her husband, Drew Peterson?” “Yes, I did . . . that’s Drew, right there.” “Were you in contact with your sister during her marriage?” “Yes, I was . . . I lived a little over a mile away, in Bolingbrook.”

“After a number of years, did you learn that Kitty and the defendant were getting a divorce?” “Yes . . . she agreed to have the marriage dissolved first, and then have the property settlement done later . . . it was very complicated with the distribution of the assets.” Judge Burmila strikes the second part of that answer. “Did you have a conversation about six weeks before the divorce?” Objection/Sustained. “Did you have a conversation with her about six weeks before her death, early to mid-January?” “Yes, I did . . . in the afternoon, in my house in Romeoville . . . she just showed up.” “And when she showed up, could you describe what her demeanor was?” “She was afraid, upset.” Objection/Overruled. “When she came over, what, who was present?” “Just me and her.” “Did she speak to you?” “Yes . . . I asked her what was wrong, and then she said Drew had told her he was going to kill her; she was not going to make it to the divorce settlement. She was not going to get his pension or the kids. That’s why she was upset . . . she made promise over and over I would take care of her boys . . . over and over she said it, ‘Take care of my boys’ . . . she brought in a briefcase, looked like a suitcase; she told me to get it. She had her important papers in there . . . she kept it in the back of her SUV, and I should look for it right there. If anything happened, I should grab that; any important papers she had would be in there.”

Early on the morning of Tuesday, March 2, Drew called her. “He said, ‘Kitty’s dead. She drowned in the tub.’ It just wasn’t registering. I just kept asking, ‘What?’ and I got a little hysterical after that. I said I’d come over, and he said, ‘Don’t bother. Because by the time you get here, she’ll be gone.’ At first, I screamed a lot, and then I thought I should call somebody, so I did . . . Drew had said he’d already called Henry, my brother, so I knew I had to call Suzy, my sister . . . I called my nephew first, Michael, her son; I wanted someone there with her, and said, ‘Please go there.’ And then I called her, and told her what happened.”

That morning, a policeman came over “with a bunch of keys . . . he said they were keys.” Family members gathered at Doman’s house, “trying to figure out what we were gonna do.” “Where was the first place you went?” “The funeral home . . . [then] we decided to go to the house, to see if we could find insurance papers, or a will . . . I had those keys the policeman gave me . . . we all went to the house; we all had our own cars.” “How did you get into the house?” “With the garage door opener, and the inside door going into the house was unlocked . . . [it goes] into the laundry room, which goes into the kitchen.” “At some point, were you all together in the house?” “Yes.” “And what were you trying to do?” “Look for the insurance or the will, because she told me she had one.” “Did anyone come to the door?” “Yes, Drew came to the front door . . . he was banging on the door, and yelling, ‘Open the

door!' really loud. I said don't let him in, but my Uncle Mike opened the door."

"We all sat at the table a little . . . Suzie did some talking." "What was the conversation about?" Objection/Sustained. "Did you have a conversation with the defendant at all?" "Did I say anything to Drew? I asked him what he wanted." "Did you observe him do anything?" "Oh, yeah . . . he grabbed a clothes basket, and he was running around, said the boys needed stuff for school, clothes and things." "Do you know where he got the clothes basket from?" "Upstairs, in the second story . . . he went upstairs, and I followed him." "Would you please describe how he was going through the house?" "Frantic; he was frantic . . . like in a hurry . . . I wouldn't say running, but in a hurry." "Was the first place he went the master bedroom?" "Yes, he started in there . . . I followed him. Then he went into the boys' room, the other bedrooms . . . the boys needed stuff." "Did you observe the different kinds of things in the basket?" "There were papers and clothes; that's all I know."

"Did there come a time when he took something from a table?" Objection/Sustain. "I followed him as he went through the house, and then lost track of him after a while . . . I kind of went over and stayed with Suzie for a little bit, 'cause he was getting clothes and stuff for the kids, in different rooms, digging through stuff." "Did anyone discover Kathleen's purse?" "Someone found it . . . it showed up on the table . . . I don't know where it came from. It wasn't there, and then it was just at the table; I'm not sure where it came from. We were all sitting there, and then the purse was there. He went in the purse, and there was a \$100 bill, and he took it out and said, 'This belongs to the kids.' And he put it in his pocket." She also saw Peterson "in the bathroom . . . he was leaning over the bathtub, rubbing. I didn't see in the bathtub; I just saw the back of him . . . he was in the tub, rubbing. I asked him what he was doing . . . he said he was cleaning the tub. I asked him why, and he said, 'I don't want the kids seeing the blood.' I didn't know there was blood in the tub; why was there blood in the tub if she drowned? It didn't make sense to me." Objection/Sustained.

The witness is shown a drawing of "Kitty's house, the first floor." "Does it appear to be accurate?" "Yes." The diagram is then projected for the jury, and the witness is given a laser pointer. With the use of the diagram, Doman points out various locations. At one point, they didn't know where the defendant had gone. "Were you looking for the defendant?" "Yeah, we were like, 'Where is he?' . . . when we got there, the lights were out in here, and we heard Drew, but he wasn't in the laundry room . . . it sounded like it was coming from the garage. The door was open . . . it was really weird . . ." At this point, Steve Greenberg objects, and the parties go to a sidebar.

The sidebar ends. "We were looking for Drew." "What did you do after you found him?" "We were getting ready to leave." "When you were in the house, how did you leave?" "We each had separate cars; we were all getting ready to go." "Who did you leave with?" "Dennis [her boyfriend]." As she was leaving, "my sister told me, 'Don't forget my case' . . . and it dawned on me just as I was getting ready to leave, when I saw her car in the garage. When I looked, it was exactly where she said it would be . . . it was open, so I grabbed it . . . I wanted to get this thing in the trunk right away, because I didn't know where Drew was and I didn't want him to take it or anything."

The witness is shown a photo of the exterior of the Savio home. She points out where her car was parked (adjacent to the garage door). "After you put the case into your vehicle, what happened?" "Drew had grabbed the garage door opener off of my car; I had put it on my hood . . . there was too much stuff for me to handle with my hands . . . he was standing in front of my car. He had the garage door opener . . . I said, 'Give it back,' and he said no. And I was mad . . . I never got it back." "When you left the residence that day, how did you get out?" "As you're standing in the garage, there's a button right there . . . if you push the button, you can run out quick . . . as the door started coming

down, I ran out quick.” “Do you know if the rest of the family left at the same time?” “Around the same time . . . we didn’t all leave together.”

“From your living with your sister throughout your life, did you become aware of any skin condition she might have?” “Yes, she was very sensitive to cheap jewelry, costume jewelry. If it wasn’t real gold, she would get a rash.” “Would she wear jewelry when she was bathing?” “No, she wouldn’t.”
Objection/Sustained. In the last year of Savio’s life, she saw Savio “occasionally” preparing to bathe. “Did she ever wear jewelry during those times?” “No.” In the year before Savio’s death, the witness occasionally spent the night at Savio’s home. “When she was preparing to bathe, what would she do with hair?” Objection/Sustained.

That concludes the direct examination of this witness. Attorney Joseph Lopez now begins his cross-examination. “This briefcase . . . the day you were at the house and found those documents, you didn’t turn them over to the State Police, did you?” “No, not on that date . . . it was later.” “It was four or five years later, isn’t that true?” “I’m not sure how much later, but it was much later.” “You stored that briefcase in your garage?” “Yes.” “You had to take it down, dust it off, and make copies of those documents in 2008?” “Yes.” “And you gave those copies to a producer for the Greta Van Susteren show?” “Yes.”

The witness says that her sister told her that Drew was going to kill her and make it look like an accident. “That’s what she said to me.” “You didn’t hear Drew say that yourself?” “No.” She repeats that Drew called her on the morning of March 2 to tell her that Kathleen had died. “And he told you not to come to the house?” “Right.” “Some policeman” brought her Kathy’s keys . . . “it was a uniformed guy.” “Did he ask you what your name was?” “No . . . he said, ‘I’m dropping the keys off.’” “Did you tell that police officer at that time, ‘Hey, my sister said Drew was going to kill her and make it look like an accident’?” “No.”

“That was still Drew’s house, wasn’t it, partly Drew’s house?” “I didn’t know that . . . I didn’t know what belonged to who.” “So Drew had as much right to be there?” “Well, I didn’t know that.” She repeats that Peterson “banged on the front door” when he came over to the house while she was there with her family. She also repeats that Peterson went through the house, collecting things into a laundry basket. “You didn’t call the police?” “No.” “How many family members were in there with you?” “I’d have to stop and count them all . . . six, and Dennis.” “Dennis was your boyfriend at the time?” “Yes.” “You didn’t follow Drew around the house?” “Not the whole time.”

The witness is shown a copy of a document (apparently to refresh her recollection). She is directed to a specific portion. However, the Prosecution objects, and the judge rules that the witness can read the entire document. “So you did follow him around?” “Yes.” “And he did fill the basket with items?” “Yes.” “He went from room to room, and you couldn’t always see what he was doing?” “True.”

“When Drew was in the house, you already had the briefcase in your trunk, didn’t you?” “At what point in time?” “Well, looking for that briefcase was a priority, wasn’t it?” “Yes.” “And it’s the first thing you did?” “I didn’t say that . . . it wasn’t the first thing I did . . . it was important, but it wasn’t the first thing I did . . . she said, ‘Make sure you get the briefcase.’”

The witness is now asked about her grand jury testimony, which indicates that she put the briefcase in her trunk, then went back into the house. “Would you like to see a copy, to refresh your testimony?” “Sure . . . so what’s your question?” “Did you tell the grand jurors you went and got the briefcase, put it in your trunk, and then went back in the house?” “Yes.” “And then you went on to say that Drew came

over?? “Well, Drew was banging at the door.” “You told the grand jury that after you got the briefcase that Drew was banging on the door?” “The order of the things that happened may have been mixed up. But they did happen; Drew was banging . . . but the order of which it happened may not be correct. But it all happened.” “The question is, did you tell the grand jurors after you put it in the trunk that Drew knocked on the door?” “I don’t remember telling them that he banged after I put it in my trunk . . . the order may have been mixed up. I did put it in my trunk; he did bang on the door. About when, the order could have been mixed up. It was a very stressful day.”

“You guys went to the house to get things out of there before Drew got there . . . you were looking for money, jewelry?” “No, we were looking for a will.” “Well, you put the briefcase in your trunk, and went back in the house looking for stuff?” “Yeah.” “You went through the office looking for stuff, looking for anything you could take?” “Anything relevant.” “What did you take out of the house?” “Cancelled checks. That was pretty much it.” “The rest of your family members were also looking for items?” “Yes.”

Doman acknowledges that she didn’t call the police that day to report that Savio had said Drew would try to kill her. “My sister spoke up [at the coroner’s inquest].” “The first time you told anybody that Drew was going to make it look like an accident was in November, 2007?” “He did . . . Kathy told me he did . . . they [the police] wouldn’t listen before then. No one would listen . . . I tried to call, but no one would listen . . . all they would say was that it was under investigation . . . no one would listen. I tried.” Objection/Sustained.

The witness concedes that she didn’t open Savio’s briefcase the day she found it. Eventually, she turned it over to the State Police. “You kept it in your garage, in Romeoville, in a closed position, up on a shelf?” “Yes.” “The day that Drew came to the house and took the items, he took the garage door opener?” “Yes.” “And you didn’t know he was still the part owner of the property?” “No, I thought it was Kitty’s house; I didn’t know who owned what.” “You didn’t have a court order to enter that house?” “No.” “You didn’t have Drew’s permission to enter that house, did you?” “No.”

Doman doesn’t think she’s ever been on the Greta Van Susteren show. She knows that her sister at one time had a book and movie deal (“At one time she did. I don’t know about now.”)

In 2004, she went to a bank to try to get into Savio’s safe deposit box. Objection/Overruled. “Your attorney filed some letters for permission to become the estate administrator?” “Yes.” “You also filed an injunction in March, 2004 to stop Drew from taking any property out of the residence?” “Yeah.” “So in 2004, you did those three things?” “Yes.” “But you didn’t go to the state police until 2007, three years later?” “Right.”

“You indicated that when Kathleen took a bath, she would put her hair up in a towel?” “I didn’t say she put her hair up in a towel.” “Well, didn’t you tell authorities that Kathleen would remove her jewelry and would put her hair up in a towel?” “I said she would put her hair up . . . I don’t remember saying ‘towel.’” “So you deny using the word ‘towel’?” “I don’t remember saying the word ‘towel.’ I know I said ‘up.’ Even after she is shown a copy of the report in question, the witness repeats that she only remembers saying ‘up,’ but doesn’t remember saying anything about a towel.

“You know that when Kathy died she had a gold necklace around her neck with a cross on it?” “I didn’t know that.” “Were you ever told that?” “No.” “You knew Kathy’s [at first, Lopez misspeaks, and said ‘Stacy’s’ rather than ‘Kathy’s’] friend Mary Pontarelli, didn’t you?” “I met her two or three times.” “You never told her that Kathy said Drew was going to kill her and make it look like an accident?”

“Not that I remember.” “And you knew that Kathy and Mary were very close friends?” “I knew they were friends.” “You weren’t really that close to your sister, were you?” “Yes, I was close to her.” “You didn’t know her boyfriend, did you?” “Yes, I knew him.” “But you didn’t know him well?” “It depends on what you consider well.”

“During that six week period from the time you claim she made this statement to the time of her death, you didn’t go to her house at all, did you?” “I don’t remember.” Doman concedes that she didn’t call up Drew to warn him not to do anything, didn’t call the Bolingbrook P.D., and didn’t file any kind of report. “You didn’t call a family meeting, or call your father up and tell him that?” “No.” “You didn’t attempt to contact your sister’s boyfriend and relay that information, either, did you?” “No.” This ends the cross-examination.

Lopez suddenly realizes he has one more question. Doman repeats that Drew cleaned the bathtub while she was at the house, and claimed he was doing it because he didn’t want the kids to see the blood. “You knew the police had been in there the night before, right?” “Yes.”

The jurors are now gone. Judge to witness: “The State is going to make what is called an offer of proof.” Patton: “You were asked repeatedly why you waited until 2007 to do anything about this . . . why was that?” “Nobody would listen to us.” “But what made you at that time come forward? Did anything make you come forward?” Objection/Sustained. “Well, finally, we had been calling everybody . . . but after I had met Greta and she told me about Dr. Michael Baden, he offered to do the autopsy. And he’s a world-renowned doctor. We were able to get my sister exhumed, and he said that it was murder. That’s when it all started.” “How did you meet Greta?” “Well, the whole thing was going on with Stacy . . . I thought, ‘Oh, my God, poor Chris and Tommy’ . . . “ “And that’s how you ended up meeting Greta Van Susteren?” “Yeah . . . I didn’t even know who she was when I met her.”

Lopez begins his part of this proffer. The witness concedes that she had not seen her nephews for some time, and had not sent birthday cards. “You didn’t make a complaint that no one would listen to her, did you?” “No. I didn’t think it would do any good.” “So the only reason you came forward was because you heard that Stacy had been missing, or had walked away from her house?” “I went there [to Sharon Bychowski’s house] to support my nephews. I didn’t go with any other intent.”

That concludes the offer of proof, and the witness is asked to leave the courtroom. Once she’s gone, prosecutor Patton argues that this testimony is necessary to explain why Doman waited so long to go public. “I believe this witness should be allowed to testify why it happened to be . . . the defense is trying to avoid bringing up Stacy Peterson. But the whole reason she went over there, and the whole reason those people were there, was because of the missing Stacy Peterson . . . the defense has invited it. We can’t explain a lot of the things this woman did without Stacy.” Greenberg responds: “I don’t think that they should be able to get into it . . . we’ve all known that this issue’s out there.” Judge Burmila: “The State’s point is well taken. The defense cross-examined the witness in multiple ways and asked multiple questions that she withheld the information . . . the State is entitled to show, in light of all that cross-examination, why the woman would have come forward in 2007 . . . she hoped she would be able to encourage FOX News to go ahead with their plan, and have an exhumation . . . I think, however, that for her to say she acted because of Stacy Peterson is much too prejudicial, and that will not be admissible. But the other information, about why she acted, that is admissible.” So, in short, Doman will be able to explain how she came to speak to FOX News, and mention Dr. Michael Baden, but she may not say anything about Stacy Peterson’s disappearance.

The jurors are now back in the courtroom, and Kathy Patton resumes her redirect examination. “You

were asked some questions about meeting Greta Van Susteren. Before you met her, did you even know who she was?" "No, I didn't even know who she was." "You were going to the home of a woman named Sharon?" "Sharon Bychowski . . . I went over there to check on the welfare of Tommy and Chris." "Why did you take along a death certificate?" "I wanted to use it as a form of identification, so she wouldn't think I was a crazy lady . . . I had that and my driver's license." "How did you meet Greta?" "When I went in, there was all these people in there. And she was just sitting there . . . and I just started talking to her . . . about the events that were going on. She asked me who I was." "Did you talk to her about your sister, Kathleen, and her death?" "Yes, I did." "Was there also conversation about investigating that?" "Yes, I did tell her that." "Did you talk to her about exhuming her?"
Objection/Overruled. "Well, exhumation wasn't exactly what we talked about. But I did tell her I wasn't happy with what was on the death certificate." "Did you talk with her about getting another opinion from someone else?" "Yes . . . she said she could put me in contact with someone who might possibly help me . . . Dr. Michael Baden. He's a world-renowned pathologist." "So you didn't go over there to meet her, or to get on television, anything like that?" "No . . . I thought she was a friend of Sharon's."

Doman repeats that she called the state police (as did other family members) to try to get someone to look into Savio's death. Objection/Sustained. "Did you have a conversation with your family about calling various police departments?" "Yes." Objection/Overruled. "Did you talk to Henry about you and Henry doing that?" "I talked to Henry about him doing it, yes." "And in addition to him doing it, you did it as well?" "Yes." "And they didn't listen to you?" "Yes . . . that's what I said."

What did the defendant say to you he was looking for that day?" "He needed stuff for kids; they needed stuff for school." "He went into the master bedroom and the master bathroom?" "Yeah. I thought that was a little strange."

"When I was leaving toward the end, I saw her car, her SUV. It just hit me. There was just so much stuff going on in my head . . . you're thinking about all this other stuff. And when I looked at her car, the briefcase just hit me. And so when I walked out and saw the car, I just thought about it . . . I'd never had anybody that close to us die . . . it's just horrible."

Judge Burmila has returned to the bench. The jurors and witness have also returned to the courtroom, and Mr. Lopez resumes his recross examination. "You appeared on Greta Van Susteren that day, didn't you?" "I'm not sure it was that day, but, yes, I did." "Wasn't it during this conversation with Greta that you asked for a second autopsy . . . or was that her suggestion?" "I can't remember whose idea it was at first." "You were aware that FOX paid for it?" "I was under the assumption that Dr. Baden did it pro bono . . . if they [FOX] paid for it, I'm unaware of it." "Did you know he was paid \$50,000 for that autopsy?" Objection/Sustained.

At the time, this witness worked for the village of Romeoville. "You knew a lot of police officers, didn't you?" "Not really." "You never consulted with any of them, did you, about the information you had about this threat to your sister?" "Not that I remember." "In fact, you consulted an attorney with regard to the items you found in the briefcase?" Objection/Overruled. "Yes." "You didn't tell that attorney about this threat, did you?" "I don't remember if I did or not."