

THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

STATE OF WASHINGTON,	)	
	)	
Respondent,	)	NO. 95776-2
	)	
vs.	)	STATE'S MOTION TO
	)	ACCELERATE
EARL RONALD ROGERS,	)	DEFENDANT'S PETITION
	)	FOR REVIEW
Appellant.	)	
	)	
	)	
_____	)	

1. IDENTITY OF MOVING PARTY

Appellant Earl Ronald Rogers has petitioned for review of the Court of Appeals opinion dated February 20, 2018. The State of Washington, Respondent, files this motion to accelerate review.

2. STATEMENT OF RELIEF SOUGHT

The State requests that this Court accelerate consideration of Rogers' petition for review because the statute of limitations for the crime of tampering with a witness committed by Rogers by sending the letter at issue in this appeal runs on November 6, 2018.

3. FACTS RELEVANT TO MOTION

The State charged Earl Rogers with one count of felony telephone harassment for threatening to kill the victim, Manesbia Pierce, his girlfriend's mother. CP 1, 5. On November 1, 2015, the victim reported that she received five phone calls from Rogers, in which he yelled at her and threatened to come over and kill her, and "blow" her "brains out." CP 5. She was afraid that Rogers had obtained a gun and would carry out his threat. CP 5. She was visibly upset when police responded to her home, so much so that they had trouble interviewing her. CP 5. Rogers was arrested and admitted calling the victim, but denied threatening her. CP 5.

Attorney David Trieweiler initially represented Rogers. CP 8, 13, 23. When Trieweiler interviewed the victim at her home in the course of his investigation, the victim showed Trieweiler a letter that Rogers had mailed from jail to the victim's daughter, Timothea Marshall, in which Rogers apologized and offered to pay the victim money in exchange for "dropping" the charge against him. CP 7-8. According to the victim and Marshall, Trieweiler took the only known copy of the letter with him when he left her home. CP 8; RP 5.

The victim subsequently contacted Trieweiler and asked for the letter back. CP 8-9. After the prosecutor learned of the letter's existence, the prosecutor also requested that Trieweiler return the letter to the victim or provide a copy of it to the State. CP 8-9, 14-15, 18, 20. The victim called Trieweiler in the presence of detectives and informed him that she wanted the letter back. CP 15. Trieweiler stated "I can't talk to you about this." CP 15.

The State filed a motion to compel production of the letter. CP 7-21. In response, Trieweiler contended he could not produce evidence he gathered in the course of representing Rogers. CP 23.

The court ordered the State to first serve the victim's daughter, Marshall, with a subpoena duces tecum to produce the letter. CP 34. The State issued the subpoena duces tecum. CP 109-11. Marshall provided a declaration to the court, stating that Rogers had mailed her a letter, and that she gave the letter to her mother. CP 35-36. She stated that she had no copies of the letter. CP 36.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> In December of 2016, Pierce provided the State with several screenshots of portions of the letter, which show that the letter was addressed to Marshall from Rogers in the King County Jail and was dated November 6, 2015, five days after the crime occurred. Although this evidence is not part of the record below, counsel believes RPC 3.3 mandates that she make this Court aware of this evidence. The screenshots do not show the entire letter.

Trieweiler was removed as Rogers' defense counsel after the presiding judge found an irreconcilable conflict of interest between Rogers and Trieweiler, and new counsel was appointed for Rogers. CP 37. The presiding judge subsequently signed a subpoena duces tecum over Trieweiler's objection, ordering him to produce "all letters, notes, memorandum or writings obtained at 103 S. 339<sup>th</sup> Circle, Unit B, Federal Way, WA 98113, from or in the presence of Manesbia Pierce, by David Trieweiler and/or his investigator, during the fall or winter of 2015." CP 51-53. Trieweiler objected. CP 54.

The criminal motions judge permitted Trieweiler to file under seal a motion and declaration to quash the subpoena. RP 14; CP 99-100. The State, although unable to know the precise contents of the motion to quash, provided briefing to the court arguing that the letter was physical evidence that does not contain attorney-client communications and is not protected by attorney-client privilege. CP 112-15, 131-36.

The court denied the motion to quash in part, requiring Trieweiler to turn over "any letter(s) (or copy of letter(s)) written by Mr. Rogers to Ms. Timothea Marshall provided to Mr. Trieweiler or

his investigator by Manesbia Pierce or in her presence at 103 S. 339<sup>th</sup> Circle, Unit B, Federal Way, WA 98113 in the fall of 2015.” CP 99-100. However, the court granted the motion to quash in part by striking broader language in the subpoena requiring production of “all letters, notes, memorandum or writings obtained. . . from or in the presence of Manesbia Pierce” out of concern that the broader language, as phrased, could require production of privileged documents. CP 99-100.

The court found Trieweiler in contempt of court for failing to comply with the court’s order to produce the letter on August 25, 2016. CP 107. The court imposed a sanction of \$100 per day after 48 hours, but stayed the sanction pending appeal. CP 107. Rogers sought discretionary review, which was granted.


The Court of Appeals affirmed the trial court in an unpublished decision dated February 20, 2018. The Court of Appeals ordered that on remand Trieweiler must provide the letter within 30 days of issuance of the mandate. Rogers moved for reconsideration and to publish the opinion. Rogers has now petitioned for review.



possible, or at least by October 1, 2018.

Submitted this 8<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2018.

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**KING COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE - APPELLATE UNIT**

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**Transmittal Information**

**Filed with Court:** Supreme Court  
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**Appellate Court Case Title:** State of Washington v. Earl Ronald Rogers, Jr.  
**Superior Court Case Number:** 15-1-06546-3

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