

FILED  
SUPREME COURT  
STATE OF WASHINGTON  
6/17/2025  
BY SARAH R. PENDLETON  
CLERK

FILED  
Court of Appeals  
Division I  
State of Washington  
06/17/2025 2:20 PM

Case #: 1041993

THE Appeal COURT FOR THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

IN AND FOR THE Division 1

STATE OF WASHINGTON,

Plaintiff,

v.

Stephen V. Vasquez

Defendant.

No. 872095

Motion

COMES NOW the defendant, Stephen Vasquez, Pro se  
and submits this motion to file amended petition for review for  
the Court's consideration.

INFORMATION

On or about 1/1/2023 defendant was charged/  
sentenced for the crime of Robbery, cause No.                       
and is currently serving a 240 month sentence from Okanogan  
County Superior Court. His current release date is 1/1/2038.

GROUND

FACTS RELEVANT TO MOTION

I turned my petition in prematurely  
do to concern of timeliness. I was  
granted an extension after I turned  
My petition in that was not ready.

GRUNDS FOR RELIEF AND ARGUMENT

Accept my new petition because  
I was granted an extension

CONCLUSION

For the reasons put forth above, the petitioner respectfully requests that this Court grant his motion, and award any and all relief as provided for by law.

In addition, the petitioner respectfully requests that this Court Accept my new petition for discretionary review.

Furthermore, the petitioner respectfully requests that this Court appoint counsel to argue any issues this Court finds meritorious.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven Vasquez

I, Stephen Vasquez, hereby swear under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of Washington, that I have read the contents of the above Motion, and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

signed this 17 day of June, 2025.

Steven Vasquez  
Signature



No. 872095

Appeal COURT  
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

---

Appeal court Respondent,  
v.  
Stephen Vasquez Petitioner,

---

Petition / MOTION FOR DISCRETIONARY REVIEW

---

Stephen Vasquez  
[Name of petitioner]

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
[Address]

A. Identity of petitioner.

Stephan V. Vasquez ask this court to accept review of the decision designated in part B of this motion

B. Decision

I want the Ineffective assistance of Counsel claim reviewed.

I want the trial courts abuse of discretion claim reviewed.

I want the prosecutor misconduct claim reviewed.

I want the police misconduct claims reviewed.

I want the Violation of due process claim reviewed.

I want the Violation of my 4<sup>th</sup> amendment claim reviewed.

The decision on my direct appeal is ~~attached~~<sup>SK</sup> attached. Date filed 3-10-25. The decision of the motion for reconsideration is attached. Date filed 4-21-25. See Attachments

C. Issues presented for Review.

Violation of Due process.

Violation of 4th amendment

Trial court abuse of discretion

Police misconduct

Ineffective assistance of counsel

Cumulation of errors violated my right to a fair ~~trial~~<sup>trial</sup> trial.

D. Statement of the case.

I was convicted of Robbery, Attempted Robbery, assault and a few others.

The State secured a conviction with the use of evidence secured from a unlawful vehical pursuit and officers false identification of me as the suspect during a foot pursuit. The officers used the unlawful vehical pursuit to further their investigation. Coerced witnesses to identify me as the suspect and used the tainted evidence to secure warrant to search and seize.

## Case Law

Cranford V. O'Shea, 75 Wash 33  
Pg. 9-A and 14-A

State V. Alexander, 64 Wn. App.  
Pg. 9-A and 14-A

State V. Allen, 138 Wn. App.  
Pg. 6-A, 8-A, 9-A, 10-A and 14-A

State V. Allen, 182 Wn. 2d  
Pg. 6-A, 8-A, 9-A, 10-A and 14-A

State V. Avila-Avina, 99 Wn. App.  
Pg. 6-A, 8-A, 10-A and 14-A

State V. Badday, 63 Wn. 2d  
Pg. 6-A, 9-A and 14-A

State V. Bagby, 200 Wn. 2d  
Pg. 9-A

State V. Black, 109 Wn. 2d  
Pg. 9-A and 14-A

State V. Blazina, 182 Wn. 2d  
Pg. 15

State V. Belgarde, 110 Wn. 2d  
Pg. 9-A

State V. Bluford, 188 Wash 2d  
Pg. 6-A, 8-A, 9-A and 14-A

State V. Braham, 67 Wn. App.  
Pg. 9-A

State V. Brashear, 32 Wn. App.  
Pg. 6-A, 8-A and 14-A

State v. Case, 49 wn

Pg. 9-A and 14-A

State v. Charlton, 90 wn

Pg. 9-A

State v. Chesley, 158 wn

Pg. 10-A and 14-A

State v. Classen, 4 wn

Pg. 6-A and 9-A

State v. Coe, 101 wn

Pg. 8-A, 9-A, 10-A, 14-A and 17

State v. Cory, 62 wn

Pg. 8-A, 9-A, 10-A and 14-A

State v. Crane, 116 wn

Pg. 6-A, 8-A, 9-B, 10-A and 14-A

State v. Criegler, 23 wn

Pg. 9-B and 14-B

State v. Crow, 8 wn

Pg. 6-A, 9-B and 14-B

State v. Crudup, 11 wn

Pg. 6-A, 8-A and 14-B

State v. Cruz, 88 wn

Pg. 8-A, 10-A and 14-B

State v. Cummings, 31 was

Pg. 8-A and 14-B

State v. Dailey, 93 wn

Pg. 9-B

State v. Dawkins, 71 wn

Pg. 6-B

State v. Denham, 2020 wash

Pg. 6-B, 8-A, 9-B, 10-A, 14-B and 17

State v. Devlin, 145 wash

Pg. 9-B and 14-B

State v. Deweesey, 169 Wn. App

Pg. 6-B and 8-A

State v. Dowell, 26 Wn

Pg. 8-A and 14-B

State v. Drath, 7 wash App

Pg. 6-B and 14-B ~~and 14-B~~<sup>34</sup>

State v. Elwell, 199 Wn. 2d

Pg. 6-B, 8-B, 10-A and 14-B

State v. Estes, 188 Wn. 2d

Pg. 6-B, 14-B and 17

State v. Fisher, 74 Wn. 2d

Pg. 6-B, 9-B and 14-B

State v. Gambill, 2015 wash App

Pg. 6-B, 8-B and 14-C

State v. Hamilton, 179 Wn. App

Pg. 6-B and 17

State v. Harris, 36 Wn. App

Pg. 6-B, 8-B, 9-B and 14-C

State v. Hawkins, 72 Wn. 2d

Pg. 6-B, 8-B and 14-C

State v. Heaton, 149 wash

Pg. 9-B

State v. Hicks, 163 Wn. 2d

Pg. 14-C

State v. Higby, 26 Wn. App

Pg. 6-B, 8-B, 10-A and 14-C

State v. Huntley

Pg. 6-B, 8-B, 9-B and 14-C

State V. James, 48 Wn. App.  
Pg. 6-C, 14-C and 17

State V. Jones, 144 Wn. App  
Pg. 9-B and 14-C

State V. Jones, 146 Wn. 2d  
Pg. 6-C, 8-B, 10-A and 14-C

State V. Jones, 183 Wn. 2d  
Pg. 6-C and 14-C

State V. Jury, 19 Wn. App  
Pg. 6-C and 14-C

State V. Keller, 35 Wn. App  
Pg. 8-B, 10-A and 14-D

State V. Kelly, 32 Wn. App  
Pg. 6-C, 8-B and 14-D

State V. Kier, 164 Wn. 2d  
Pg. 6-D, 8-C, 9-B and 14-D

State V. Kroll, 87 Wn. 2d  
Pg. 9-B

State V. Kyllö, 166 Wn. 2d  
Pg. 6-D

State V. Hampshire, 74 Wn. 2d  
Pg. 8-C, 9-B and 14-D

State V. Leavitt, 49 Wn. App  
Pg. 6-D

State V. Lee, 132 Wn. 2d  
Pg. 6-D, 8-C, 9-B and 14-D

State V. LeFever  
Pg. 9-C

State V. Lennon, 94 Wn. App  
Pg. 6-D, 8-C and 14-D

State V. Lewis, 115 Wn. 2d  
Pg. 6-D, 8-C, 9-C and 14-D

State V. Light-Roth, 2019 Wash  
Pg. 6-D and ~~14-D~~<sup>SK</sup> 14-D

State V. Lindsey, 185 Wash 206  
Pg. 9-C

State V. Linville, 199 Wash App  
Pg. 6-D, 8-C, 9-C and 14-D

State V. Lopez, 79 Wn. App  
Pg. 8-C and 14-D

State V. Loughbom, 196 Wn. 2d  
Pg. 9-C

State V. Martell, 22 Wn. App  
Pg. 6-D, 8-C and 14-D

State V. Mayfield, 192 Wn. 2d  
Pg. 6-D, 8-C, 10-A and 14-E

State V. McCullum, 98 Wn. 2d  
Pg. 8-C and 14-E

State V. McDonald, 40 Wn App  
Pg. 6-D, 8-D and 10-A

State V. McGee, 3 Wn. 3d  
Pg. 6-D, 10-B and 14-E, 8-D

State V. McKelson, 133 Wn. App  
Pg. 6-D, 10-B and 14-E

State V. McKenzie, 157 Wn. 2d  
Pg. 9-C

State V. McKenzie, 21 Wn. App



State v. McNeil, 20 Wn

Pg. 8-D and 9-C

State v. McReynolds, 104 Wn. App

Pg. 6-D, 8-D, 10-B and 14-E

State v. Michaels, 60 Wn. 2d

Pg. 6-E, 8-D, 10-B and 14-E

State v. Michielli, 132 Wn. 2d

Pg. 9-C

State v. Miles, 24 Wn. App

Pg. 6-E, 8-D, 9-C and 14-E

State v. Mills, 154 Wn. 2d

Pg. 8-D and 14-E

State v. Mitchell, 30 Wn. App

Pg. 6-E, 8-D, 9-C and 14-E

State v. Monday, 171 Wn. 2d

Pg. 9-C

State v. Moon, 108 Wn. 2d

Pg. 6-E, 9-C, 10-B and 14-E

State v. Navone, 186 Wash

Pg. 9-C

State v. Neth, 165 Wn

Pg. 6-E, 8-D, 10-B and 14-E

State v. Nichols, 161 Wn. 2d

Pg. 6-E, 8-D, 10-B and 14-E

State v. Norman, 24 Wn. App

Pg. 6-E, 8-E and 14-F

State v. Parnell, 77 Wn. 2d

Pg. 6-E, 8-E and 14-F

State V. Peterson, 3 Wn. App  
Pg. 6-E, 8-E, 10-B and 14-F

State V. Peterson, 73 Wn. 2d  
Pg. 6-E, 9C, 14-F and 17

State V. Pierce, 169 Wn. App  
Pg. 9-C

State V. Pittman, 134 Wn. App  
Pg. 6-E, 8-E and 14-F

State V. Potts, 2014 Wash  
Pg. 8-E and 14-F

State V. Ramirez, 46 Wash  
Pg. 6-E, 8-E, 9-D and 14-F

State V. Reed, 102 Wn. 2d  
Pg. 9-D

State V. Reader, 46 Wn. 2d  
Pg. 9-D

State V. Reichenback, 152 Wn. 2d  
Pg. 6-F, 10-B and 14-F

State V. Reyes, 98 Wn. App  
Pg. 6-F, 8-E, 10-B and 14-F

State V. Romero, 95 Wn. App  
Pg. 6-F, 8-E, 9-D and 14-F

State V. Rose, 62 Wn. 2d  
Pg. 9-D

State V. Sang, 184 Wash  
Pg. 9-D

State V. Sargent, 40 Wn. App  
Pg. 9-D

State V. Scott, 93 Wn

Pg. 6-F, 8-E, 9-D and 14-F

State V. Sherman, 59 Wn. App

Pg. 9-D

State V. Simpson, 22 Wn. App

Pg. 6-F, 8-E and 14-F

State V. Simpson, 95 Wn. 2d

Pg. 6-F, 8-E, 10-B and 14-G

State V. Slater, 197 Wn. 2d

Pg. 9-D

State V. Smith, 104 Wn. 2d

Pg. 6-F, 8-E, 10-B and F-G

State V. Smith, 154 Wn. App

Pg. 6-F, 9-D and F-G

State V. Smith, 174 Wn. App

Pg. 8-F and F-G

State V. Solomon, 3 Wn App

Pg. 6-F, 8-F, 10-B and F-G

State V. Spencer, 9 Wn App

Pg. 6-F, 8-F, 10-B and 14-F

State V. Stillner, 80 Wn. 2d

Pg. 6-F, 8-F and 14-G

State V. Strickland

Pg. 6-F and 14-G

State V. Swenson, 62 Wn. 2d

Pg. 6-G, 8-F, 10-B and 14-G

State V. Swenson, 59 App

Pg. 8-F, 10-B and 14-G

State V. Tarica, 59 wn

Pg. 6-G, 8-F, 10-C and 14-G

State V. Teems, 89 wn

Pg. 8-F, 9-D and 14-G

State V. Thomas, 109 wn

Pg. 8-F and 14-G

State V. Thompson, 68 wn

Pg. 8-F and 14-G

State V. Thompson, 151 wn

Pg. 6-G, 8-F, 10-C and 14-G

State V. Thompson, 169 wn

Pg. 6-G, 8-F and 14-H

State V. Townsend, 2 wn

Pg. 17

State V. Traweck, 43 wn

Pg. 6-G, 8-F, 10-C and 14-H

State V. Vanness, 186 was h

Pg. 6-G, 8-F, 10-C and 14-H

State V. Varquez, 198 wn

Pg. 6-G and 14-H

State V. Young, 62 wn

Pg. 6-G, 8-G and 14-H

State V. Young, 123 wn

Pg. 6-G, 8-G, 10-C and 14-H

State V. Young, 167 wn

Pg. 6-G, 8-G, 10-C and 14-H

State V. Walker, 182 wn

Pg. 9-D

State V. Wall, 52 wn

Pg. 6-G, 8-G and 14-H

State v. Wheeler, 22 Wn

Pg. 6-H, 8-G, 9-D and 14-H

State v. Winterstein, 167 Wn.2d

Pg. 6-H, 8-G, 10-C and 14-H

State v. Workman, 90 Wn.2d

Pg. 6-H, 8-G and 14-H

### Other Authorities

Washington state cases can be overturned due to unlawful vehicular pursuits especially if the pursuit violated state law or the defendants constitutional rights. For example a 2021 law restricted police pursuits requiring probable cause for specific felonies like assault, vehicular assault or drunk driving. If police pursuits violate these laws the evidence gathered during the pursuit may be suppressed leading to dismissal or overturning charges.

Pg. 18

R L W 10.116.060 .

Pg. 18

Law § 840 > due process - conviction obtained by perjured testimony. The constitutional requirement of due process is not satisfied where a conviction is obtained by the presentation of testimony known to the prosecuting authorities to be perjured.

Pg. 14-I

Evidence (68). Evidence seized during an unlawful search cannot constitute proof against the victim of the search; the exclusionary prohibition extends as well to the indirect as the direct products of such invasion.

PG. 10-C

Actual or constructive denial of the assistance of counsel altogether is legally presumed to result in prejudice.

PG. 14-I

Criminal law and procedure counsel-substitution and withdraw. Justifiable dissatisfaction sufficient to warrant that new counsel be appointed includes a conflict of interest, an irreconcilable conflict, or a complete breakdown in communication between the attorney and the defendant.

PG. 14-J

§ 2.05 Remedies for constitutional violations.

PG. 14-I

Where a fourth amendment violation is established and it is proved that the out-of-court identification is a direct fruit of the violation, the out-of-court identification is suppressed regardless of its reliability.

PG. 14-I

Where a due process violation occurs at the out-of-court identification procedure so that the resulting out-of-court identification is constitutionally unreliable, the identification is suppressed.  
Pg. 14-I

Criminal law and procedure > trials > defendants rights > right to due process. If, by fraud, collusion, trickery and subordination of perjury, on the part of those representing the state, the trial of an accused person results in his conviction, he has been denied due process of law. The case can stand no better if, by the same devices, a confession is procured, and used at trial.  
Pg. 14-J

If law enforcement searches or seizes without a warrant or applicable warrant exception and thus obtains evidence through an unconstitutional search, the evidence is inadmissible under the exclusionary rule. *Id* at 931  
Pg. 10-C

E. Argument why review should be granted.

Error 1

Ineffective assistance of counsel.

Argument

A) There was a complete breakdown in communication throughout every facet of the proceedings. Judge Rawson gave counsel instructions to communicate with me, on 5-2-22 during the readiness hearing. (See CP # 188).

The complete breakdown in communication is on record, on 1-3-23 at the motion hearing. When I asked Ms. Burke are we putting motions in next week and she lies and answers yes. Then I tell Judge Grimm counsel is not communicating offers to me or properly. Judge Grimm tells counsel to answer my questions. (See Pretrial RP pg. 84-89).

Judge Grimm recognized the complete breakdown in communication, Gave counsel a I instructions to communicate and for counsel to answer my questions, on 1-9-23 during the pretrial motion hearing (See Pretrial RP pg. 103-105). 8 months after Judge Rawson told counsel to communicate with me, During this hearing



there is three examples of counsel's failure to consult with me and the complete breakdown in communication. Example one, counsel's failure to inform me about admissible evidence. (See Pretrial RP pg 118). Example two, I tell the Judge counsel has no answers for me. (See Pretrial RP pg 170). Example three, I tell the Judge there should of been motions to suppress evidence. Counsel said they made a tactical decision. They made the decision without consulting with me. (See Pretrial RP pg 208).

Both the Judges instructions to counsel did not prevent the furtherance of the complete breakdown in communication. Counsel still did not advise me or communicate trial strategy and tactics with me. (See CP # 214).

Counsel was ineffective in the plea bargaining process do to the complete breakdown in communication. Counsel did not properly inform me of plea deals. Counsel told me they could not use evidence and we would suppress the evidence. Mr. Haas said I could appeal the binder. Mr. Haas said I would ~~the~~<sup>the</sup> win the motion to sever on appeal. This prejudiced me because because ~~the~~ counsel did not inform me

that I had to preserve the issue not how to preserve the issue for an appeal. They did not inform me of the disadvantages of the appeal process. I even said I would ~~of~~ agreed to a deal if it wasn't for the complete breakdown in communication caused by counsel. (See CP # 188).

B) Counsel was ineffective for not motioning to sever charges. Mr. Haas said the Otanogun court would not sever the charges because it already made its ruling. Therefore it wouldn't overrule its earlier ruling. Mr. Haas said we would win the motion to sever on an ~~appeal~~<sup>SR</sup> appeal though.

The binder should of been challenged because the evidence used to join the cases is unlawful and prejudicial evidence. Obtained from the unlawful vehical pursuit, officer Orr's unlawful identification and the witnessess unlawful identifications. Therefore the cases should of been severed

C) Counsel was ineffective and prejudiced me. By failing to file motions to suppress that the law supported. Judge Grimm tells me counsel

is required to bring motions the law supports.  
(See Pretrial RP pg 88-89).

Counsel failed to suppress Vehical pursuit evidence because, None of RCW 10.116.060 was met to engage in a Vehical pursuit. (See Statement of arresting officer and preliminary finding of probable cause).

Counsel failed to suppress officer Orr's out-of-court identification of me as the suspect. Officer Orr is on camera saying he never seen the suspects face. (See defense exhibit 13 and CP #185).

Counsel failed to suppress the witnessess out-of-court identifications of me as the suspect. Counsel said the officer coerced the witnessess to identify me. (See Pretrial RP pg 207-208 and CP #185).

Counsel failed to suppress the evidence secured by further investigation of the Vehical pursuit, for it is fruit of the poisonous tree. Fruit of the poisonous tree evidence that should of been suppressed is: IID evidence, cell phone evidence, evidence from my house and car, and all identification evidence. (See warrants)

Counsel failed to suppress the Video/Audio recording do to it being of poor quality and distorted. (See Pretrial RP pg 207-208).

D) Counsel was deficient and prejudiced me by failing to object during trial.

Counsel should have objected and motioned to striken evidence from the record. When officer testified none of RCW 10.116.060 was met to engage in a vehical persuit. (See trial RP pg 570-597). All evidence from the Vehical persuit should of been suppressed.

Counsel should have objected and motioned to suppress the out-of-court identification of me as the suspect. When the w.tnessess and officers confirmed. The officer told the w.tnessess I was the suspect and if they would identify me as the suspect for them. (See trial RP pg 659-660, 692-693, 800-810, 815 and 831-836).

Counsel failed to object and motion to suppress the Video/Audio recording. When the State played it and it was not distorted. I raised this issue three times. (See Pre/Post trial RP pg 207-208, 260 and CP # 214).

counsel failed to object to numerous prosecutor prejudicial misconduct. The prosecutor asked the Jury to find me guilty and asked them to mark yes on all special verdict forms. (see trial RPpg 241, 1132 and 1134). The prosecutor used profile testimony and inflammatory name calling to heighten the Jurys prejudice. (see trial RPpg 1114 and 1154). The prosecutor testifies telling the Jury the letter I wrote was a confession. (see trial RPpg 1130). The prosecutor testifies to the truthfulness of the witnesses. (see trial RPpg 1129 and 1158). The prosecutor testifies telling the Jury the knives are deadly weapons and the evidence is beyond a reasonable doubt. (see trial RPpg. 1130 and 1160). Instead of allowing the Jury to come to their own conclusion.

E) counsel prejudiced me by failing to request a limiting instruction and lesser included instruction to be added to Jury forms. For it lessened the states burden and allowed the Jury to view evidence in an improper light.

Ineffective assistance of counsel case  
Law.

State V. Allen, 138

State V. Avila-Avina, 99

State V. Badila, 63

State V. Bluford

State V. Brashear, 32

unlike Brashear the error in my case  
is of constitutional magnitude. Counsel  
was ineffective for not objecting.

State V. Classen, 4

State V. Crane, 105 wn

State V. Crow, 8

State V. Crudup, 11

unlike Crudup the officers posting their  
reports of social media was inflammatory  
and prejudicial. Counsel was ineffective for  
not motioning for a change of venue.

State v. Dawkins, 71 wn

State v. Denham, 2020 wash

State v. Deweese, 169 wn  
unlike Deweese, I was not granted new counsel  
or given the option to proceed pro se

State v. Drath, 7 wash

State v. Elwell, 199 wn  
unlike Elwell, I was not allowed to raise  
any motions to suppress evidence.

State v. Estes, 188 wn

State v. Fisher, 74 wn

State v. Gambill, 2015 wash

State v. Hamilton, 179 wa

State v. Harris, 36

State v. Hawkins, 72 wn

State v. Higby, 26 wn

State v. Huntley

State v. James, 48 wn

State v. Jones, 146 wn  
officer Orr said he didn't have probable cause for vehical pursuit. Counsel prejudiced me and my defense by not motioning to suppress evidence.

State v. Jones, 183 wn  
counsel had no tactical reason not to challenge and suppress evidence. Nor had any tactical reason not to have witnesses identify me through an audio montage. Counsel had no tactical reason not to have my grandma and mother testify.

State v. Jury, 19 wn  
Counsel failed to acquaint themselves with my case. None of RCW 10.116.060 was met to engage in vehical pursuit. Evidence from pursuit should of been challenged and suppressed. The out-of-court identification of me as the suspect should of been challenged and suppressed. The officers told the witnesses I was the suspect and if they would identify me as the suspect.

State v. Kelly, 32 wn



State v. Kier, 164 wn.

State v. Kylo, 166 wn

State v. Leavitt, 49 wn

State v. Lee, 132 wn

State v. Lennon, 94 wn

State v. Lewis, 115 wn

State v. Light-Roth, 2019 Wash

State v. Linville, 199 Wash

State v. Martell, 22 wn

State v. Mayfield, 192 wn

State v. McDonald, 40 wn

State v. McGee, 3wn

State v. McKelton, 133 wn

State v. McReynolds, 64 wn

State v. Michaels, 60 wn

State v. Miles, 24 wn

State v. Mitchell, 30 wn

State v. Moon, 108 wn

State v. Neth, 165 wn

State v. Nichols, 161 wn  
unlike ~~Mr~~<sup>Ms</sup> Nichols the officer in my case  
said he did not have probable cause to  
engage in a vehical pursuit, therefor  
suppression of evidence was called for.

State v. Norman, 24 wn

State v. Parnell, 77 wn

State v. Peterson, 3 wn

State v. Peterson, 73 wn

State v. Pittman, 134 wn

State v. Ramirez, 46 wash

State V. Reichenback, 152 wn

State V. Reyes, 98 wn  
counsel prejudiced me and my defense.  
There was no probable cause to engage in  
vehical pursuit the officers actions were  
aimed at accelerating discovery. Evidence  
should of been suppressed

state V. Romero, 95 wn

state V. Scott, 93 wn

State V. Simpson, 95 wn

state V. Simpson, 22 wn

State V. Smith, 104 wn

State V. Smith, 154 wn

state V. Solomon, 3 wn

State V. Spencer, 9 wn

State V. Stiltner, 80 wn

State V. Strickland

State v. Swenson, 62 Wn

State v. Tarica, 59 Wn

State v. Thompson, 151 Wn

State v. Thompson, 169 Wn  
unlike Thompson. The complete breakdown  
in communication was caused by counsel  
in my case.

State v. Traweck, 43 Wn  
unlike Traweck. The state made no showing  
suggestiveness was necessary. In my case.

State v. Van Ness, 186 Wash

State v. Vazquez, 198 Wn

State v. Young, 62 Wn

State v. Young, 123 Wn

State v. Young, 167 Wn

State v. Wall, 52 Wn

State v. Wheeler, 22 wn

State v. Winterstein, 167 wn

State v. Workman, 90 wn

Error 2  
Judicial misconduct and abuse of discretion  
Argument

A) The court signed warrants even though the evidence used to secure the warrants were unlawfully obtained. (See warrants)

B) The court used the unlawful evidence to prejudice me and join the cases for trial.  
(See Pretrial RPpg 18).

C) Judge Lawson abused his discretion. By not hearing my verbal motions for change of venue and substitution of counsel and by not making a formal inquiry into my dissatisfaction with counsel. (See Pretrial RPpg 40-41 and CP # 188).

Judge Grimm abused his discretion when I asked for new counsel and made no inquiry of my dissatisfaction with counsel. (See Pretrial RPpg 85-86).  
He abused his discretion again when he asked me if I wanted new counsel and recognized there was a complete breakdown in communication. Then denied to grant me new counsel. (See Pretrial RP pg 97-103).

The court abused its discretion by not

granting me a evidentiary hearing to hear my verbal and written motions. (See Pre/Post trial RP pg 40-41, 51, 62, 85-90, 95-105, 118, 170-171, 207-208, 211, 260, 263 and CP # 185, 188 and 214).

D) The court abused its discretion by not putting a limiting instruction in the Jury instructions and by only giving one single set of Jury forms to the Jury. For it deprived the Jury of the opportunity to separately consider the circumstances determining each of the robberys and it allowed the Jury to view evidence in an improper light. (See Jury forms, CP # 104 and States respondent brief pg 16-17).

E) Judge Grimm abused his discretion. He said it is his duty to rule on evidence. (See trial RP pg 1089-1090). As soon as officer Orr testified none of RCW 10.116.060 was met to ~~eng~~<sup>st</sup> engage in a vehical persuit and officers testified the out-of-court identification were coerced. Judge Grimm should of ruled the evidence inadmissible. The evidence was unlawfully obtained and Judge Grimm has a duty to uphold the law.

Judicial misconduct and abuse of discretion case law.

State v. Allen, 138 Wn

State v. Avila-Ariza, 99 Wn

State v. Brashear, 32

State v. Coe, 101 Wn

State v. Cory, 62 Wn

State v. Crane, 105 Wn

State v. Crigler, 23 Wn

State v. Cradup, 11

State v. Cruz, 88 Wn

State v. Cummings, 31 Wash

State v. Denton, 2020 Wash

State v. Dewese, 169 Wn

State v. Dowell, 26 Wn



State v. Elwell, 199 WR

State v. Gambill, 2015

Trial court failed to conduct an adequate inquiry before denying my request for new counsel.

State v. Harris, 36

State v. Hawkins, 72 WR

State v. Higby, 26 WR

State v. Huntley

State v. Jones, 146 WR

officer in my case said he did not have probable cause to engage in vehicular pursuit the evidence should of been suppressed. The court should not of used evidence to secure a conviction.

State v. Keller, 35 WR

State v. Kelly, 32 WR

The court should of granted me new counsel do to the complete breakdown in communications caused by counsel.

State v. Kier, 164 wn

State v. Hampshire, 74 wn

State v. Lee, 132 wn

State v. Lennon, 94 wn

The court used evidence from unlawful vehicular pursuit to secure warrants and a conviction in my case violating my right to due process.

State v. Lewis, 115 wn

State v. Linville, 199 wash

State v. Lopez, 79 wn

Judge failed to make investigation into my claim

State v. Martell, 22 wn

State v. Mayfield, 192 wn

There was no unforeseeable intervening circumstances in my case. The evidence should of been suppressed and not used to secure a conviction.

State v. McCullum, 98 wn

State V. McDonald, 40 wn

The officer asked the witnesses to identify me as the suspect. The court should of recognized my motion to suppress.

State V. McGee, 3wn

The evidence in my case was all tainted from the unlawful vehical pursuit violating my right to due process.

State V. McNeil, 20 wn

State V. McReynolds, 104 wn

State V. Michaels, 60wn

State V. Miles, 24 wn

State V. Mills, 154 wn

State V. Mitchell, 30 wn

State V. Moon, 108 wn

State V. Neth, 165 wn

State V. Nichols, 161 wn

State v. Norman, 24 wn

State v. Parnell, 77 wn

State v. Peterson, 3 wn

State v. Pittman, 134 wn

State v. Potts, 2014 Wash  
unlike Potts. The Judge in my case did  
not make deeper inquiry into my dissatisfaction  
with counsel or asked if there was anything  
else I wanted to address.

State v. Ramirez, 46 Wash

State v. Reyes, 98 wn

State v. Romero, 95 wn

State v. Scott, 93 wn

State v. Simpson, 95 wn

State v. Simpson, 22 wn

State v. Smith, 104 wn  
The evidence was unconstitutionally obtained in my case  
and should of been suppressed

State v. Smith, 174 wn

State v. Solomon, 3 wn

State v. Sparker, 9 wn

State v. Stiltner, 80 wn

State v. Swenson, 59, wn

State v. Swenson, 62. wn

State v. Tarica, 59 wn

State v. Teens, 89 wn

State v. Thomas, 109 wn

State v. Thompson, 68 wn

State v. Thompson, 151 wn

State v. Thompson, 169 wn

Trial court should of granted me new counsel  
do to the complete breakdown in communication  
caused by counsel.

State v. Tra week, 43 wn

State v. Vanness, 186 wash

State v. Young, 62 wn

State v. Young, 123 wn

State v. Young, 167 wn

State v. Wall, 52 wn

State v. Wheeler, 22 wn

State v. Winterstein, 167 wn

State v. Workman, 90 wn

### Error 3

#### Prosecutor misconduct

A) The prosecutor used tainted evidence from unlawful vehical persuit and unlawful out-of-court identification of me as the suspect, to secure warrants and join cases for trial. Then the prosecutor used the unlawful evidence and the fruit of the poisonous tree evidence from further investigation of unlawful vehical persuit to secure a conviction.

B) The prosecutor used profile and inflammatory testimony to arouse the jury bias and prejudice. Prosecutor testified to the truthfulness of the witnesses testimony, told the jury the letter I wrote was a confession. Asked the jury to find me guilty and to mark yes on special verdict forms. Testified saying the knives were deadly weapons and the evidence was beyond a reasonable doubt. Instead of allowing the jury to come to their own conclusion. (See trial RP pg 241, 1114, 1129 - 1130, 1132, 1134, 1154, 1158 and 1160).

Prosecutor misconduct case law

Cranford v. O'Shea, 75 wash

State v. Alexander, 64 wn

State v. Allen, 182 wn

State v. Badde, 63 wn

State v. Bagby, 200 wn

State v. Back, 109 wn

State v. Belgarde, 110 wn

State v. Bluford, 188 wash

State v. Braham, 67 wn

State v. Case, 49 wn

State v. Charlton, 90 wn

State v. Classen, 4 wn

State v. Coe, 101 wn

State v. Cory, 62 wn



State v. Crane, 116 wn

State v. Crigler, 23

State v. Crow, 8wn

State v. Dailey, 93 wn

State v. Denham, 2020 wash

State v. Devlin, 145 was

State v. Fisher, 74 wn

State v. Harris, 36 wn

State v. Heaton, 149 wash

State v. Huntley,

State v. Jones, 144 wn

State v. Kier, 164 wn

State v. Kroll, 87 wn

State v. Lampshire, 74 wn

State v. Lee, 132 wn

State v. Lefever

State v. Lewis, 115 wn

State v. Lindsey, 185 wash

State v. Linville, 199 wash

State v. Loughbom, 176 wn

State v. McKenzie, 157 wn

State v. McNeil, 20 wn

State v. Michielli, 132 wn

State v. Miles, 23 wn

State v. Mitchell, 30 wn

State v. Monday, 171 wn

State v. Moon, 108 wn

State v. Navone, 186 wash

State v. Peterson, 73 wn

State v. Pierce, 169 wn

State v. Ramirez, 46 Wash

State v. Reedy, 102 Wn

State v. Reeder, 46 Wn

State v. Romero, 95 Wn

State v. Rose, 62 Wn

State v. Sang, 184 Wash

State v. Sargent, 40 Wn

State v. Scott, 93 Wn

State v. Sherman, 59 Wn

State v. Slater, 197 Wn

State v. Smith, 154 Wn

State v. Teems, 89 Wn

State v. Walker, 182 Wn

State v. Wheeler, 22 Wn

## Error 4

Violation of 4th amendment right.

A) The Unreasonable search-n-seizure is a conclusion of law contained in the record. All the warrants to search-n-seize were obtained with unlawful evidence. Secured by a illegal and unlawful vehical pursuit, officer orrs false identification of me as the suspect, the coerced out-of-court witnessess identification of me as the suspect and the misleading to trier of fact Video. (see statement of arresting officer and preliminary finding of probable cause, declaration for probable cause, motion and declaration for issuance of order for arrest warrant, order for arrest warrant, ~~exhibit 1~~ <sup>3.17</sup> ~~omit~~ RCW 10.116.060 and trial RP pg 570-597, 659-660, 692-693, 800-810, 815 and 831-836, als defense exhibit 13).

## Violation of 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment case law

State v. Allen, 138 wn

State v. Avila-Avina, 99 wn

State v. Chesley, 158 wn

State v. Coe, 101 wn

State v. Cory, 62 wn

State v. Crane, ~~116~~ <sup>34</sup> ~~WA~~ 105 wn

State v. Cruz, 88 wn

State v. Denton, 2020 wash

State v. Elwell, 199 wn

State v. Higby, 26 wn

State v. Jones, 146 wn

State v. Keller, 35 wn

State v. Mayfield, 192 wn

State v. McDonald, 40 wn

State v. McGee, 3 wn

State v. McKelton, 133 wn

State v. McReynolds, 104 wn

State v. Michaels, 60 wn

State v. Moon, 108 wn

State v. Neth, 165 wn

State v. Nichols, 161 wn

State v. Peterson, 3 wn

State v. Reichenback, 152 wn

State v. Reyes, 98 wn

State v. Simpson, 95 wn

State v. Smith, 104 wn

State v. Solomon, 3 wn

State v. Spencer, 9 wn

State v. Swenson, 59 wn

State v. Tarica, 59 Wn

State v. Thompson, 151 Wn

State v. Traueck, 43 Wn

State v. Vanness, 186 Wash

State v. Young, 123 Wn

State v. Young, 167 Wn

State v. Winterstein, 167 Wn

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment Authorities

Evidence 681. Evidence seized during an unlawful search cannot constitute proof against the victim of the search; the exclusionary prohibition extends as well to the indirect as the direct products of such invasion.

If law enforcement searches or seizes without a warrant or applicable warrant exception and thus obtains evidence through an unconstitutional search, the evidence is inadmissible under the exclusionary rule. Id at 931.

## Error 5

Violation of due process.

A) The violation of due process began with the unlawful vehical pursuit. None of RW10.116.060 was met to engage in a vehical pursuit. (See trial RPPg 570-597 and preliminary finding of probable cause). Vehical pursuit evidence should of been challenged and suppressed.

B) Officer OTTS identification of me as the suspect violated my right to due process. Because he is on ~~cam~~<sup>2.4</sup> video saying he never seen the suspects face. (See defense exhibit 13). His out-of-court identification of me as the suspect should of been challenged and suppressed.

C) The out-of-court witnessess identifications of me as the suspect violated my right to due process for three reasons. First, the officers used the unlawful vehical pursuit to further their investigation and secure the out-of-court identifications. Secondly, the officers coerced the witnessess to



identify me as the suspect. Thirdly, Neither witness testified they identified my face or voice. (See Q # 185 and trial RP pg 659-660, 692-693, 800-810, 815 and 831-836, also Pretrial RP pg 207-208). This evidence should of been challenged and suppressed.

D) All the warrants violated my right to due process because they were secured with unlawfully obtained evidence. Also do to them being a direct fruit of the unlawful vehical pursuits (See Statements of probable cause).

E) The Joinder Violated my right to due process because it was secured with prejudicial unlawfully obtained evidence. (See Pretrial RP pg 17-19). The evidence in each case was not strong enough to ~~conflict~~<sup>conflict</sup> on there own either. This prejudiced me because the Jury was allowed to use evidence from different cases to find me guilty of charges. Where the charges severed the Jury would not of come to the same conclusion.

F) Being placed in a Hobsons choice violated my right to due process.

(See Pretrial RP pg 36-41, 42-45 and 49-53 also CP # 185, 188 and 185). I said I didn't want a continuance. Judge Rawson said if I want to allow counsel more time to prepare or go to trial with unprepared counsel. Counsel coerced me to agree to continuance when I didn't want to because they said they needed more time to prepare to file motions. Placing me in a Hobson's choice. Then they never filed the motions we ~~discussed~~<sup>discussed</sup>. (See CP # 185, 188 and 214).

(5) The courts abuse of discretion violated my right to due process. By the use of tainted evidence to secure warrants. By recognizing a <sup>3<sup>rd</sup></sup> complete breakdown in communication and not granting me new counsel. By not recognizing my verbal and written motions or inquiring further in to my dissatisfaction with counsel with an evidentiary hearing. By not upholding the law during the proceedings. When officer Orr testified he did not have probable cause to engage in a vehicular pursuit and officer testified they coerced the witnesses out-of-court identifications of me as the suspect. Judge Grimm should of

ruled the evidence inadmissible right then. By not granting a mistrial do to sleeping jurors and by not granting a evidentiary hearing to inquire about the Jurys misconduct.

H) Prosecutors misconduct Violated my right to due process. When it used the unlawful evidence to secure warrants to search-n-seize. When the prosecutor used the unlawful evidence to secure the prejudicial binder and conviction. When the prosecutor used profile inflammatory testimony to raise the Jury bias and prejudice.

I) The police misconduct Violated my right to due process. When officer engaged in a unlawful vehical pursuit. When officer orr lied about ident. Fyng me as the suspect. When the officers coerced the witnessess to identify me as the suspect. When the officers posted their reports on social media arousing the communitys hostility and prejudice against me.

## Violation of Due process case law

Cronford v. O'Shea, 75 wash

State v. Alexander, 64 wn

State v. Allen, 138 wn

State v. Avila-Avina, 99 wn

State v. Baddy, 63 wn

State v. Black, 109 wn

State v. Brashear, 32 wn  
unlike Brashear. The error in my case was of constitutional magnitude. I was also not granted new counsel.

State v. Case, 49 wn

State v. Chesley, 158 wn

State v. Coe, 101 wn

State v. Corg, 62 wn

State v. Crane, 105 wn

State v. Crigler, 23 wn

State v. Crow, 8 wn

State v. Crudup, 11 wn  
unlike Crudup. The officers posting their reports on social media. Asking the community what should happen to me was prejudicial.

State v. Cruz, 88 wn

State v. Cummings, 31 wash

State v. Denham, 2020 wash

State v. Devlin, 145 wash

State v. Dowell, 26 wn

State v. Drath, 7 wash

State v. Elwell, 199 wn  
unlike Elwell. I was not allowed to raise any motions to suppress. Even though I tried.

State v. Estes, 188 wn

State v. Fisher, 74 wn

State V. Gambill, 2015 Wash  
In my case the trial court failed to conduct  
an inquiry to fully inform its self before  
denying my motion for new counsel.

State V. Harris, 36 wn

State V. Hawkins, 72 wn

State V. Hicks, 163 wn

State V. Higby, 20 wn

State V. Huntley

State V. James, 48 wn

State V. Jones, 144 wn

State V. Jones, 146 wn  
officer in my case he did not have probable  
cause for vehical pursuit. Counsel failed to  
supress evidence. Violating my right to due  
process.

State V. Jones, 183 wn

State V. Jury, 19 wn

State v. Keller, 35 wn

State v. Kelly, 32 wn

Unlike Kelly, I was not allowed to fire counsel even though I tried too.

State v. Kier, 164 wn

State v. Lampshire, 74 wn

State v. Lee, 132 wn

State v. Lennon, 94 wn

State v. Lewis, 115 wn

State v. Light-Roth, 2019 wash

State v. Linville, 199 wash

State v. Lopez, 79 wn

The Judge failed to make detailed investigation of my claims before denying my motion for new counsel. Violating my right to due process.

State v. Martelli, 22 wn

State V. Mayfield, 192 wn

In my case there was no unforeseeable intervening circumstances.

State V. McGulkin, 98 wn

State V. McGee, 3 wn

State V. McKelton, 133 wn

State V. McKeon, 104 wn

State V. Michaels, 60 wn

State V. Miles, 24 wn

State V. Mills, 154 wn

State V. Mitchell, 30 wn

State V. Moon, 108 wn

State V. Neth, 165 wn

State V. Nichols, 161 wn

unlike Nichols. The officer in my case said he did not have probable cause to engage in a vehical pursuit. Therefore the evidence should of been suppressed.



State V. Norman, 24 wn  
unlike Norman. The court denied my  
motions for new counsel.

State V. Parnell, 77 wn

State V. Peterson, 3 wn

State V. Peterson, 73 wn

State V. Pittman, 134 wn

State V. Potts, 2014 wash  
unlike Potts. The Judges in my case did  
not make proper inquiry of my dissatisfaction  
with counsel or the complete breakdown  
in communication caused by counsel.

State V. Ramirez, 46 wash

State V. Reichenback, 152 wn

State V. Reyes, 98 wn

State V. Romero, 95 wn

State V. Scott, 93 wn

State V. Simpson, 22 wn

State v. Simpson, 95 wn

State v. Smith, 104 wn

State v. Smith, 154 wn

State v. Smith, 174 wn

State v. Solomon, 3 wn

State v. Spenser, 9 wn

State v. Stiltner, 80 wn

State v. Strickland

State v. Swenson, 62 wn

State v. Swenson, 59 wn

State v. Tarica, 59 wn

State v. Teens, 89 wn

State v. Thomas, 109 wn

State v. Thompson, 68 wn

State v. Thompson, 151 wn

State V. Thompson, 169 wn  
unlike Thompson. The complete breakdown  
in communication was caused by counsel  
in my case.

State V. Trawick, 43 wn  
The state made no showing the officers  
telling the witnesses I was the suspect  
and if they would identify me as the  
suspect was necessary.

State V. Vanness, 186 wash

State V. Valquez, 198 wn

State V. Young, 62 wn

State V. Young, 123 wn

State V. Young, 167 wn

State V. Wall, 52 wn

State V. Wheeler, 22 wn

State V. Winterstein, 167 wn

State V. Workman, 90 wn

## Due process authorities

Law § 840 > due process - conviction obtained by perjured testimony. The constitutional requirement of due process is not satisfied where a conviction is obtained by the presentation of testimony known to the prosecuting authorities to be perjured.

## § 2.05 Remedies for constitutional violations.

Where a Fourth amendment violation is established and it is proved that the out-of-court identification is a direct fruit of the violation, the out-of-court identification is suppressed regardless of its reliability.

Where a due process violation occurs at the out-of-court identification procedure so that the resulting out-of-court identification is constitutionally unreliable, the identification is suppressed.

Actual or constructive denial of the assistance of counsel altogether is legally presumed to result in prejudice.

Criminal law and procedure, counsel-substitution and withdraw. Justifiable dissatisfaction sufficient to warrant that new counsel be appointed includes a conflict of interest, an irreconcilable conflict, or a complete breakdown in communication between the attorney and the defendant.

Criminal law and procedure > trials > defendants rights > right to due process. If, by fraud, collusion, trickery and subordination of perjury, on the part of those representing the state, the trial of an accused person results in his conviction, he has been denied due process of law. The case can stand no better if, by the same devices, a confession is procured, and used at trial.

## F. Conclusion

State v. Blazina, 182 Wn.2d. Allows Appellate courts to review errors on appeal for the first time.

I'm a layman to the law. My right to a fair trial was denied. There was issues I wanted to raise but counsel refused to assist me. I tried to raise issues but the court does not recognize hybrid co-counsel. Therefore, I was denied the right to address the court and raise issues. Violating my right to due process. I tried to fire ~~counsel~~<sup>SV</sup> counsel but was denied. I was never informed I had to preserve issues for appeal purposes. Counsel said I could raise issues on appeal but failed to inform me on how to preserve them, which prejudiced me, my defense and my appeal. Counsel failed to assist me in the adversary process because counsel said I would win arguments on appeal. Therefore, failed to help me make an informed decision in the plea bargain process.

My right to due process was denied. The whole case revolves around an unlawful

Vehicle pursuit and the tainted evidence, from further investigation of the unlawful vehicle pursuit. The unlawful evidence is what secured the conviction. Violating my right to due process. The resulting conviction is therefore unreliable.

The cumulative error doctrine should come into play because of all the errors. Violated my right to due process.

I should be granted a new trial or the first plea deal. Due to the violation of my right to due process, effective assistance of counsel and the fact I said before trial. I would have agreed to the first plea deal if not for the breakdown in communication caused by counsel. Counsel said they were going to suppress evidence. I told counsel I was not comfortable taking a deal if they were going to suppress evidence. Counsel informed they were not going to suppress evidence after the more favorable plea deal was off the table. Counsel's deficient performance prejudiced me because I lost the opportunity to take the more favorable plea deal. Resulting in ineffective assistance

of counsel.

State V. Coe, 101 Wn.2d 772. Under the cumulative error doctrine, a defendant may be entitled to a new trial. When cumulative errors produce a trial that is fundamentally unfair.

State V. James, 48 Wn.App. 353, 739 P.2d 1161 (1987) defendants alleged they were not properly informed of a plea offer; the standard is whether or not there is a reasonable probability that but for an attorneys errors a defendant would have accepted a plea agreement.

State V. Estes, 188 Wn.2d 450

State V. Hamilton, 179 Wn.App. 870

State V. Townsend, 2 Wn.App.

State V. Denham, 2020 Wash

State V. Peterson, 73 Wn



Washington state cases can be overturned due to unlawful vehicular pursuits especially if the pursuit violated state law or the defendants constitutional rights. For example a 2021 law restricted police pursuits requiring probable cause for specific felonies like assault, vehicular assault or drunk driving. If police pursuits violate these laws the evidence gathered during the pursuit may be suppressed leading to dismissal or overturning charges.

RCW 10.116.060

Dated this 17<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2025

Sincerely

*Steve Vasquez*

Stephen V. Vasquez

Attachment 1

FILED  
4/21/2025  
Court of Appeals  
Division I  
State of Washington

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

STATE OF WASHINGTON,

Respondent,

v.

STEPHEN VINCENT VASQUEZ,

Appellant.

No. 87209-5-I

DIVISION ONE

ORDER DENYING MOTION  
FOR RECONSIDERATION

Appellant, Stephen Vincent Vasquez, filed a pro se motion for reconsideration of the opinion filed on March 10, 2025, in the above case. A majority of the panel has determined that the motion should be denied.

Now, therefore, it is hereby

ORDERED that the motion for reconsideration is denied.

FOR THE COURT:

Díaz, J.

Judge

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

STATE OF WASHINGTON,

Respondent,

v.

STEPHEN VINCENT VASQUEZ,

Appellant.

No. 87209-5-I

DIVISION ONE

UNPUBLISHED OPINION

DIAZ, J. — A Okanagan jury convicted Stephen Vasquez of four counts of robbery in the first degree, two counts of assault in the second degree, one count of attempted robbery in the first degree—all with a deadly weapon enhancement—and attempting to elude law enforcement. He now claims the evidence was insufficient to support (only) the attempted robbery and attempt to elude convictions. He also makes two claims of error which the State concedes and raises numerous other allegations in his statement of additional grounds for review (SAG). We affirm.

I. BACKGROUND

Over the course of two weeks at the end of October and beginning of November, 2021, Vasquez robbed four gas station convenience stores with a knife, dressed in all black and wearing a mask and a hood, and he also attempted

to enter a fifth station which was locked. The attempted robbery occurred third in the series of five total incidents. After the last robbery, a law enforcement officer observed Vasquez driving a vehicle leaving the scene, and several officers responded in a pursuit at high speed and ultimately apprehended him. Following a six day trial, a jury convicted Vasquez on all counts. He timely appeals.

## II. ANALYSIS

### A. Sufficiency of the Evidence

In reviewing a challenge to the sufficiency of evidence, the proper inquiry is “whether, after viewing the evidence in the light most favorable to the State, any rational trier of fact could have found guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.” State v. Salinas, 119 Wn.2d 192, 201, 829 P.2d 1068 (1992). A claim of insufficiency admits the truth of the State’s evidence and all inferences that reasonably can be drawn therefrom. Id. And all reasonable inferences from the evidence must be drawn in favor of the State and interpreted most strongly against the defendant. Id. “In determining the sufficiency of the evidence, circumstantial evidence is not to be considered any less reliable than direct evidence.” State v. Delmarter, 94 Wn.2d 634, 638, 618 P.2d 99 (1980). A sufficiency analysis is “highly deferential” to the jury’s verdict. State v. Davis, 182 Wn.2d 222, 227, 340 P.3d 820 (2014). The appellate court defers to the trier of fact on issues of conflicting testimony, credibility of witnesses, and the persuasiveness of the evidence. State v. Bergstrom, 199 Wn.2d 23, 41, 502 P.3d 837 (2022).

#### 1. Attempted Robbery

Vasquez claims there is insufficient evidence to sustain his conviction for

attempted robbery in the first degree because the State did not prove Vasquez took a substantial step toward the commission of the robbery. We disagree.

"The question of what constitutes a 'substantial step' under the particular facts of the case is clearly for the trier of fact." State v. Workman, 90 Wn.2d 443, 449, 584 P.2d 382 (1978). "Mere preparation to commit a crime is not an attempt." State v. Townsend, 105 Wn. App. 622, 631, 20 P.3d 1027 (2001). "[F]or conduct to be a substantial step it must be strongly corroborative of the actor's criminal purpose." Workman, 90 Wn.2d at 452.

Our Supreme Court held in Workman, "[w]e find it appropriate to adopt the Model Penal Code approach to the definition of a substantial step." Id. The court provided examples of conduct which the code specifies are sufficient as a matter of law to constitute a substantial step. Id. at 451-52. These include "lying in wait, searching for or following the contemplated victim of the crime," "reconnoitering the place contemplated for the commission of the crime," and "possession of materials to be employed in the commission of the crime, which are specially designed for such unlawful use or which can serve no lawful purpose of the actor under the circumstances." Id. n. 2.

As shown on video footage outside of the station from the night of the attempted robbery, Vasquez walked towards the gas station dressed all in black, wearing a mask covering his face, and a hat with a visor, with the hood of his jacket pulled over it. He held an object that appeared to be a knife by his side as he approached the store, with the blade open as he walked to the entrance. He pulled on the door handle, and then walked away after he could not open it.

Vasquez argues that none of these actions constituted a substantial step and that, instead, the State needed to show he took a further action, such as: pulling vigorously at door; running away; having some kind of verbal exchange with the store's employees where he demands something or makes a verbal or physical threat with the knife; or even a confession that he attempted to rob the station. That is simply not the standard.

Several of the actions he took as he approached the store are analogous or identical to the code's examples of substantial steps, including that he was in "possession of materials to be employed in the commission of the crime [the knife], which . . . can serve no lawful purpose of the actor under the circumstances." Workman, 90 Wn.2d at 452., n. 2.

Moreover, on the State's motion, the court joined and tried each charged robbery together, finding each crime cross-admissible under ER 404(b). The various robberies were properly treated as part of a common scheme or plan, as they shared numerous common elements. They involved similar specific actions, such as the choice to park a distance away from a target gas station. They involved similar attire, with Vasquez wearing all black and covering his face with a mask. And they involved the same weapon—a knife.

Vasquez does not assign error to those decisions, nor the finding that he employed "a single plan used repeatedly to commit separate but very similar crimes." State v. DeVincentis, 150 Wn.2d 11, 19, 74 P.3d 119 (2003). Vasquez did not ask for a limiting instruction prohibiting the use of the facts underlying the common scheme or plan for uses other than propensity, and does not contest any

of these underlying facts in his reply. Thus, the jury, not only had the video footage described above, but it had evidence that those actions were part of a common scheme or plan where they eventually determined robberies occurred. Id. Together, this provides sufficient evidence “strongly corroborative” of a criminal purpose to rob the store. Workman, 90 Wn.2d at 452. In turn, a rational jury could conclude that he intended, and took a substantial step toward, the commission of robbery. Salinas, 119 Wn.2d at 201. And, thus, Vasquez’s assignment of error fails.

2. Attempt to Elude Uniformed Officers

Vasquez next argues that there is insufficient evidence to uphold his conviction for attempting to elude law enforcement because none of the officers who were involved in the vehicle pursuit testified that they were wearing a uniform at the time, contrary to RCW 46.61.024(1). We again disagree.

It is true that it is an element of the crime of attempting to elude that the officer who commands a defendant to stop “shall be in uniform.” RCW 46.61.024(1). But, the jury was presented with evidence from which it could reasonably infer that law enforcement was in uniform during the pursuit.

Namely, the officer, Eric Orr, who initiated the pursuit of Vasquez’s vehicle testified that he activated his patrol lights and sirens once it became apparent from the car’s high speed that the driver was trying to flee. Officer Orr also testified that he was wearing “gear” during what-became a foot chase. After he ultimately lost sight of Vasquez, he told the jury he searched the area for approximately half an hour and then returned to the site of the robbery, where he touched base with other

law enforcement officers. The jury saw body worn camera video footage of that conversation between the officers back at the gas station, shortly after the pursuit. Officer Orr and multiple other officers can be seen dressed in full uniform. Officer Orr is specifically identifiable, as his name is sewn onto his uniform in large lettering.

Contrary to Vasquez's argument, this evidence is more than "a mere scintilla of evidence" that Officer Orr was wearing a uniform as he pursued Vasquez. State v. Fateley, 18 Wn. App. 99, 102, 566 P.2d 959 (1977). Viewing the evidence before the jury in the light favorable to the State, drawing all reasonable inferences from it, and treating circumstantial evidence as equally reliable to direct evidence, there was sufficient evidence before the jury from which it could reasonably infer Officer Orr was in uniform during the pursuit. Salinas, 119 Wn.2d at 201; Delmarter, 94 Wn.2d at 638.

In response, Vasquez cites to State v. Fussell, 84 Wn. App. 126, 128-29, 925 P.2d 642 (1996) and State v. Hudson, 85 Wn. App. 401, 405, 931 P.2d 714 (1997), which similarly held that "[n]either the fact the deputies were on duty in a marked patrol car, nor evidence [the defendant] realized the deputies were law enforcement officers, *without more*, is sufficient to permit a rational trier of fact to infer, beyond a reasonable doubt, that either deputy was in uniform." (Emphasis added.) These cases are distinguishable. Here, Officer Orr's testimony that he was in gear and the video evidence showing him in uniform is the "more" evidence that satisfies RCW 46.61.024(1).

Finally, there is no authority that requires the State to elicit testimony from



Officer Orr defining the term "gear" or affirmatively stating he had not changed clothing between the time of the pursuit and the conversation at the station, contrary to Vasquez's suggestions. Thus, this assignment of error fails.

B. Merged Counts

At Vasquez's sentencing hearing, the court followed the agreed recommendation of the parties to merge counts 2 and 7 for assault in the second degree with counts 1 and 6 for robbery in the first degree, which together comprised two of the robberies. The court's judgment and sentence, however, did not vacate the convictions for assault in the second degree, though it did not count those convictions in its sentencing calculation.

As the State concedes, when a crime merges, the conviction is vacated. State v. Freeman, 153 Wn.2d 765, 774, 108 P.3d 753 (2005). We accept the State's concession.

C. Fees

At sentencing, the trial court found Vasquez indigent. It then imposed a \$500 victim penalty assessment (VPA)<sup>1</sup> and \$100 DNA collection fee in his judgment and sentence.<sup>2</sup> Although the total legal financial obligations it specifies

---

<sup>1</sup> Formerly, RCW 7.68.035(1)(a) mandated a \$500 victim penalty assessment for all adults found guilty in superior court of a crime. State v. Mathers, 193 Wn. App. 913, 918, 376 P.3d 1163 (2016). In 2023, our legislature amended RCW 7.68.035 to state that "[t]he court shall not impose the penalty assessment under this section if the court finds that the defendant, at the time of sentencing, is indigent as defined in RCW 10.01.160(3)." LAWS OF 2023, ch. 449, § 1; RCW 7.68.035(4). Further, courts are required to waive VPAs imposed prior to the 2023 amendments, on the offender's motion. Id.; RCW 7.68.035(5)(b).

<sup>2</sup> Alongside amendments to victim penalty assessments, the legislature also amended statutes governing DNA collection fees, eliminating the fee for all defendants. LAWS OF 2023, ch. 449, § 4. Further, courts are required to waive any

is \$600, the list in the document also includes a \$200 criminal filing fee.<sup>3</sup> Vasquez requests we remand to strike all three legal financial obligations from his judgment and sentence. The State concedes they should be stricken. We accept its concession and remand the case to the trial court to strike the DNA collection fee, VPA, and criminal filing fee in accordance with RCW 7.68.035(4), RCW 43.43.7541(2), and RCW 36.18.020(h).

D. Statement of Additional Grounds

Vasquez has submitted a pro se SAG pursuant to RAP 10.10, seeking dismissal of his charges, a new trial with certain evidence suppressed, or a reduced sentence. He makes numerous claims of error and raises some allegations repeatedly while attributing the same error to more than one actor. We consolidate his grounds into six categories, which we address in turn below: (1) discovery violations, (2) ineffective assistance of counsel, (3) alleged illegal actions by law enforcement, (4) procedural errors by the trial court, (5) prosecutorial misconduct, and (6) other high-level legal errors, including mistakes in his judgment and sentence and constitutional violations concerning the prohibition against double jeopardy and the right to a speedy trial.

First, Vasquez alleges the State committed two discovery violations, but the evidence in the record he points to does not bear out the claim that any evidence was improperly withheld.

---

DNA collection fee imposed prior to the 2023 amendments, on the offender's motion. Id.; RCW 43.43.7541(2).

<sup>3</sup> In addition, the criminal filing fee may now be waived upon motion by the defendant and also may no longer be imposed upon indigent defendants. RCW 36.18.020(h).

Second, Vasquez asserts many ways in which his counsel was ineffective. He claims his attorneys were ineffective because they did not communicate with him sufficiently, did not challenge and suppress evidence he believes was unlawfully obtained, did not request a particular jury instruction, did not secure expert defense witnesses and other potential suspects, did not raise legal arguments he requested they make, such as improper joinder, and he also alleges they committed professional misconduct. Vasquez has not sufficiently identified the nature of several of these alleged errors to permit our appellate review. See RAP 10.10(c). In other words, several of his claims involving ineffective assistance are too unclear for us to analyze further.<sup>4</sup> Many others rely on assertions that are not bolstered by credible evidence beyond what is written in his own letter, or do not cite to any supportive evidence in the record. Further, Vasquez does not establish ineffective assistance of counsel on the facts in this record because he does not show there was no reasonable tactic behind the choices made by his attorneys that he contests, or that his claimed errors altered the outcome of his case.<sup>5</sup>

Third, we do not reach Vasquez's grounds that make allegations law enforcement engaged in illegal practices during his vehicle pursuit, by improperly coercing witness identifications, and intentionally arousing prejudice in the local

---

<sup>4</sup> We are not required to address a claim that is too vague to allow us to identify the issue. State v. Bluehorse, 159 Wn. App. 410, 436, 248 P.3d 537 (2011).

<sup>5</sup> A successful claim of ineffective assistance of counsel requires a defendant to establish both objectively deficient performance and resulting prejudice. State v. Emery, 174 Wn.2d 741, 754-55, 278 P.3d 653 (2012).

community as they rely on factual matters outside this record.<sup>6</sup>

Vasquez's next broad contention is that the court abused its discretion—specifically, that it erred by not giving a limiting instruction to the jury, in granting joinder, denying his request for new counsel, refusing to allow him to voice assertions during his trial, and not declaring a mistrial. The instructional claim fails because the record indicates the court *did* properly instruct the jury; it explained the State bore the burden on every element of every charge and advised the jury it had to decide each count separately without permitting any one of its verdicts to control its decision on another. Further, he does not establish that joinder was improper or succeed in demonstrating prejudice even if it were, because his reasoning is contingent upon his claims that the State's evidence was unlawfully obtained, which again, rely on facts outside the record.<sup>7</sup> He also fails to engage with the court's reasoning on other decisions it made that he challenges, in order to demonstrate they resulted from an abuse of discretion. He does not explain why it was legally wrong for the court to decide that his disagreement with trial counsel was not a sufficient reason to replace them or that it was inappropriate to

---

<sup>6</sup> We cannot consider grounds for review for which the allegations rest on matters outside the record. State v. Kinzle, 181 Wn. App. 774, 786, 326 P.3d 870 (2014). Issues that involve facts or evidence outside the record are properly raised through a personal restraint petition, not a statement of additional grounds. State v. Calvin, 176 Wn. App. 1, 27, 316 P.3d 509 (2013).

<sup>7</sup> Joinder is appropriate where offenses "[a]re based on the same conduct, or on a series of acts connected together or constituting parts of a single scheme or plan." State v. Bryant, 89 Wn. App. 857, 866, 950 P.2d 1004 (1998) (alteration in original) (emphasis omitted). And "actual prejudice must be considered in determining, at the appellate level, whether joinder was proper as a matter of law." Id. at 865.

permit him to personally raise legal arguments to the court in front of the jury. Lastly, we do not reach his assertion the court erred because it did not declare a mistrial, as there is no evidence in this record for his allegations of jury misconduct other than what is written in his own letters.

In addition, Vasquez's claims involving prosecutorial misconduct are also based in his arguments about the State's evidence that are not in the record and thus not properly raised on direct appeal, concerning the lawfulness of the vehicle pursuit, and propriety of allegedly coerced witness identifications and perjured testimony.

Finally, Vasquez's remaining assertions of legal error do not merit relief. As to his judgment and sentence, we do not further discuss the merger issue which the briefs already address, and we cannot decipher the reasoning or legal authority behind his apparent suggestion he should have received a lower sentence based on a lower offender score or calculation without weapons enhancements.<sup>8</sup> As to his asserted double jeopardy violation, he does not point to any law that supports his claim he was punished twice for the same conduct because he received a civil punishment—his vehicle was seized—while waiting to be punished criminally for the same charges that produced that seizure of property.<sup>9</sup> For the claimed speedy

---

<sup>8</sup> Arguments adequately addressed in an opening brief are not proper for a statement of additional grounds. See RAP 10.10(a); State v. Jackson, 129 Wn. App. 95, 98 n. 6, 117 P.3d 1182 (2005). We also are not required to address an argument that simply makes a "bald assertion" with no citation to the record or authority. State v. Frahm, 3 Wn. App. 2d 812, 827 n. 7, 418 P.3d 215, 223 (2018).

<sup>9</sup> To the contrary, we have held, "[t]he fact that the basis for the civil forfeiture may be criminal activity does not render the forfeiture proceeding either criminal or a resulting forfeiture punishment for double jeopardy purposes." State v. Catlett, 133 Wn.2d 355, 364-65, 945 P.2d 700, 704 (1997).

trial violation, he does not provide any record cites behind his claim.<sup>10</sup>

In summary, we do not review a number of the grounds raised by Vasquez's SAG, and none of the others establish an entitlement to appellate relief. Several do not develop a sufficiently clear explanation for our review and many others do not permit consideration because they rely on facts that are simply not included in the record. RAP 10.10(c). For those of his claims we do consider, Vasquez voices clear disagreement with particular decisions made by his counsel and the trial court, but he does not present cogent argument or authority in support of his claims of legal error or succeed in showing how they prejudiced the outcome of his case.

### III. CONCLUSION

We remand with instructions to vacate the two merged counts of assault in the second degree and strike the fees in Vasquez's judgment and sentence, and otherwise affirm.

Díaz, J.

WE CONCUR:

Cohen, J.

Smith, C.J.

---

<sup>10</sup> "[T]he appellate court is not obligated to search the record in support of claims made in a defendant's statement of additional grounds for review." RAP 10.10(c); We are not obligated to search the record in support of his claims. State v. O'Connor, 155 Wn. App. 282, 293, 229 P.3d 880 (2010).

## **E-Filing**

**June 17, 2025 - 2:20 PM**

### **Transmittal Information**

<b>Filed With Court:</b>	Court of Appeals Division I
<b>Appellate Court Case Number:</b>	872095
<b>Appellate Court Case Title:</b>	State of Washington v. Stephen Vincent Vasquez, Jr.
<b>Trial Court Case Number:</b>	21-1-00242-5

DOC filing on behalf of Vasquez - DOC Number 384702

**The following documents have been uploaded:**

DOC1pAIR1215\_20250617\_131401.pdf

The DOC Facility Name is Airway Heights Corrections Center

The E-Filer's Last Name is Vasquez

The E-Filer's DOC Number is 384702

The Case Number is 872095

The entire original email subject is 01,Vasquez,384702,872095,1of1

The following email addresses also received a copy of this email and filed document(s):

clevine@co.okanogan.wa.us,laura@nwappellatelaw.com,tpaynter@co.okanogan.wa.us