

The Mock Trial Team

at the University of Central Florida



2010 - 2011 Mock Trial Team at UCF Tryouts

Thank You for your interest in the Mock Trial team at UCF. Below you will find information regarding the tryout process.

- Tryouts will be held on **Sunday, May 2nd at 10 a.m. in HPA I 304**
- We will begin promptly at 10 a.m. Please plan on arriving no later than 9:45 a.m.
- **Attorney Tryouts**
 - Please prepare a closing argument of no more than 5 minutes for the side of your choice. If you are unfamiliar with writing a closing argument, there are plenty of sources available online to assist you.
 - Please have the Closing memorized.
 - Please choose one of the directs in this packet to perform at conduct at tryouts. At the tryouts, you will be required to direct an actual witness.
- **Witness Tryouts**
 - Please review the affidavit of either Jordan Lee or Hunter Baxamusa. Someone will be an attorney and will conduct a direct examination of your character. We are looking to see what you bring to the character. Witnesses in mock trial often dress the part, use accents to give life to the character and show emotion appropriate to the character. i.e. the typical tough talking cop or weepy victim.
- **Attire:**
 - If you are trying out for an attorney role, please come dressed in proper courtroom attire.
 - If you are trying out for a witness role, please come dressed in the character of the witness.
 - If you are trying out for both, please bring a change of clothes as you will be given an opportunity to change between your tryouts.
- For more information, please email Dr. Koblasz at mkoblasz@mail.ucf.edu or visit www.trialteamucf.com

Direct of Jordan Lee

Q: Please introduce yourself to the jury

A: My name is Dr. Jordan Lee

Q: Dr. Lee, what do you do for a living?

A: I am a chief crime scene investigator with the Midlands Police Department.

Q: Do you have any educational background in that field?

A: Yes, I attended the University of Arizona where I received a Bachelors Degree in Criminology and second Bachelors in chemistry. I then obtained my Doctorate Degree in Chemistry from MIT.

Q: What exactly does a crime scene investigator do?

A: A CSI collects and analyses evidence, performs various tests, conducts an investigation of the crime scene and any suspects, and then makes conclusions about the who's, what's, where's, whys, and how's of the crime.

Q: How are you involved in today's case?

A: I was the lead CSI investigating the Jacob Bennett murder.

Q: Through your investigation did you and your team perform any tests?

A: Yes.

Q: Could you name those for the jury and we'll discuss them in a moment?

A: I performed two polymer tests, two sediments analyses, a bar code scan, and fingerprint analysis tests.

Q: Are these types of tests reasonably relied upon by experts in your field?

A: Yes.

Q: Are they based on reliable principles and methods?

A: Yes.

Q: Did you have adequate time to apply the facts in today's case to those same principles and methods?

A: Yes.

Q: Were you in the courtroom today when Hunter Baxamusa testified to seeing a black-colored Maserati at the Midlands Marina on June 16th, 2008?

A: Yes, I was.

Q: Was this information significant in your investigation in this case?

A: Yes, the Defendant Jackie Owens owns a black-colored Maserati.

Q: So did you investigate the defendant's Maserati?

A: Yes, I did.

Q: And did you find anything of substance to your investigation?

A: Three (3) things proved to be significant about the defendant's vehicle.

Q: What three things?

A: First, the mud found on and in the car, then the trunk of the car, and lastly the headlights.

Q: Alright, lets discuss these three things separately beginning with the mud. Why was the mud significant?

A: Well the results of a sediment analysis test I performed on the mud were notable.

Q: Dr. Lee, what expertise do you have in performing sediment analyses?

A: Once I became a lead CSI, the department sent me to a 10-week seminar taught by the FBI on sedimentary analysis. This is the class forensic geologists take in order to receive certification in their field and CSI often sit in to learn the techniques as well.

Q: So what did your sediment analysis reveal, if anything?

A: Because of the mud's components, it most likely came from the Calkins Cliffs, which overlook the Midlands Marina and also where Hunter Baxamusa saw a dark-colored Maserati driving the night of Jacob Bennett's disappearance.

Q: Now you also mentioned that the lights on the defendant's Maserati were significant. Why is that?

A: Because Hunter Baxamusa claimed to have noticed distinguishable headlights on the Maserati he saw that night.

Q: And did the defendant's Maserati have these distinguishable lights?

A: Not exactly, but what I did find was perhaps more incriminating.

Q: Why is that?

A: I didn't find the lights matching the description given by Hunter Baxamusa, but I did notice peculiar tool marks around the head light casings.

Q: What does this likely mean?

A: That the lights had been worked on and probably not by a professional.

Q: So what did you do?

A: I decided to remove the bulbs from the headlights and scan their bar codes.

Q: Is it common practice, yada yada yada.

A: Yes, etc. etc. etc.

Q: And what did the bar code scan reveal?

A: A date of production of June 22nd, 2008.

Q: What does that mean?

A: That these bulbs were made on June 22nd, 2008.

Q: Is this significant?

A: Absolutely.

Q: Why, Dr. Lee?

A: Because it means that these bulbs could not have been the lights on the defendant's car the night of Jacob Bennett's disappearance, which was June 16th, 2008. The lights I found had to have been installed sometime after that night.

Q: Alright, going back to the third suspicious part of the defendant's Maserati, which you said was the trunk of the car. Why was this notable?

A: Because there was a complete lack of forensic evidence. There was not even a speck of dirt or a strand of hair. I smelled bleach and given the fact that Hunter Baxamusa saw someone putting something into the trunk of the Maserati at the marina that night, I decided to perform a polymer test on the defendant's trunk.

Q: Is a polymer test based on blah blah blah?

A: Yes.

Q: And what did this polymer test show?

A: That the trunk had indeed been bleached.

Q: In your line of work, Dr. Lee, what does the use of bleach indicate?

A: In my experience, bleach is often used to destroy evidence, particularly DNA.

Q: Were you able to link this bleach with anything else in your investigation?

A: Yes, I was able to match it with bleach found on Casey Maxwell's boat, which was docked at the Midlands Marina the night of Jacob Bennett's disappearance.

Q: So you investigated Casey Maxwell's boat?

A: Yes.

Q: And did you find anything else significant on the boat?

A: Yes actually. I also conducted a fingerprint analysis on three separate prints I picked up on the boat.

Q: And what did your fingerprint analyses show?

A: I was able to match all three sets of prints.

Q: With whom?

A: Well, two of the prints matched Casey Maxwell and Bobbi Maxwell, Casey's spouse. But this is to be expected since they own the boat.

Q: And the third print?

A: Belonged to Jackie Owens.

Q: If I showed you a map of the Midlands Marina would u recognize it?

A: Yes.

Q: Could you identify on the map the location where Hunter Baxamusa indicated he saw the maserati last?

A: Yes, number 4.

Q: Was this location important in any way?

A: Yes, that's the location where we found Jacob Bennett's body.

Q: In what condition did you find him in?

A: Buried in a duffle bag underground at the base of the Calkins Cliffs,

Q: When was this?

A: July 9th, 2008.

Q: Do you recall what Jacob Bennett was wearing when you found him?

A: He was wearing mostly dark clothing, like a black shirt and black jacket.

Q: Is this consistent with anything you have heard throughout your investigation or here in court today?

A: Yes. Hunter Baxamusa saw what appeared to be a man approaching the Maxwell boat the night of Jacob Bennett's disappearance who was wearing black clothing and who was also of a small stature.

Q: Was Mr. Bennett a tall or short man, Dr. Lee?

A: He was definitely a shorter gentleman.

Q: Now did you investigate the area in which Mr. Bennett's body was found?

A: Of course.

Q: What did you find if anything?

A: Well, I performed another sediment analysis on the mud surrounding the body.

Q: Was this the same type of sediment analysis as you performed on the mud found on the defendant's car?

A: Yes.

Q: What did this test reveal?

A: That the mud surrounding Jacob Bennett's body was a match with the mud found on and in the defendant's black Maserati Quattroporte.

No further questions, Your Honor.

Direct of Hunter Baxamusa

Q: Please state your name for the court.

A: Greetings, my name is Hunter Baxamusa.

Q: Where do you live?

A: Right here in Midlands. Actually, I still live at home with my mom.

Q: What do you do for a living?

A: I like to think of myself as a professional student - I take classes at the Midlands Community College.

Q: Mr./Mrs. Baxamusa, where were you on the night of June 16th, 2008?

A: I was at the Calkins Cliffs, in the River Bluff State Park in Midlands. I'll never forget that night.

Q: What were you doing at the Calkins Cliffs?

A: Well, there was supposed to be a lunar eclipse on June 16th. I was at the cliffs to stargaze.

Q: Where exactly were you?

A: On top of the cliffs, at Lookout Point.

Q: How much of the park could you see from Lookout Point?

A: I had a pretty good view - I could see the parking lots, and also the Midlands Marina.

Q: Did you see anyone else at the Calkins Cliffs?

A: Not at first, but eventually I saw a Maserati Quattroporte pull up. It was the most exciting thing I'd ever seen!

Q: Could you describe this car for the jury?

A: Of course. It was an ebony, 2005 Maserati Quattroporte - my favorite car.

Q: Did you see anybody in the car?

A: Someone got out of the car, but I couldn't tell you anything about them - it was just a human figure. I saw them walk towards one of the boats in the Midlands Marina, the Help Burn.

Q: Did you see anybody else at the Marina on the night of the 16th?

A: Yes, I did! I saw a taxi pull up a little while later.

Q: Did you see anybody in this car?

A: Yes. I saw a man get out of this car and head towards the same boat that the first person did.

Q: Could you describe this person?

A: Yes - they walked right in front of the car's headlights. It was definitely a man, and a short man, at that. He was wearing all black.

Q: What happened after you saw him walk towards the boat?

A: That's when the lunar eclipse took effect. I couldn't even see my hand in front of my face! I heard something crazy, though!

Q: What did you hear?

A: A gunshot!

Q: So what did you do?

A: I decided to duck and cover. I was probably on the ground for about ten minutes before I got back up again.

Q: When you got up, could you see anything?

A: I saw a person dragging something very heavy-looking towards the Maserati. They looked like they were struggling to load something heavy into the trunk.

Q: Then what happened?

A: The person got in the driver's seat and drove away.

Q: Did you see anything else on the night of the 16th?

A: No, that's it.

Thank you, no further Questions.