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REVIEW OF EVIDENCE REGARDING THE DEATH OF HARTSELL H. GRAY III

Suspect: James Patrick “Pat” Conroy

Victim: Hartsell H. Gray III

Jurisdiction: Walker County, Texas

Date of Incident: August 7, 2023

Date of Grand Jury Murder Indictment: February 20, 2025

Date of District Attorney’s Motion to Dismiss: May 30, 2025

Date of this report: March 4, 2026

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BACKGROUND:

On August 7, 2023, at approximately 8:46 p.m., a 911 call was placed from 54 Oak Ridge in Huntsville, Texas, reporting that a man had been shot. The caller, Karen Conroy (“Karen”), told dispatch that her husband had shot his cousin after an altercation and that the gun was a shotgun located on the kitchen island. Deputies responded and documented that the shooting involved a 12-gauge shotgun. The deceased man had been shot twice, once to the front torso and once to the back. According to case materials, the deceased was Hartsell “Hart” H. Gray, III (“Gray”), age 70, and the shooter was his cousin, James Patrick “Pat” Conroy (“Conroy”), age 56, at whose home the incident occurred. Case records further reflect a physical altercation between the two men prior to the shooting. Part of Gray’s ear had been severed, and Conroy had a knife wound on his hand.

Prior to the altercation between Gray and Conroy—based upon witness testimony—the two men possessed a friendly relationship with each other. Gray, a senior citizen in failing health, was an invited guest at Conroy’s house. Gray had personal belongings inside Conroy’s house, including keys to his vehicle. Evidence indicates that the altercation between Gray and Conroy injured both men prior to the shooting. The altercation occurred in the cab of Conroy’s pickup truck, parked more than 100 feet from Conroy’s home. After the altercation, Conroy fled to his house, a place of safety, and shot Gray twice when he approached the door. Gray was not

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wielding a weapon when he was shot, and witness testimony supports that Gray was not approaching in a threatening manner.

Investigators appeared to assume Gray's only reason to approach Conroy's house after the fight was to continue the fight. This is plausibly not true. Gray had nowhere else to go. Conroy's house was in a remote wooded area with no visible neighbors, it was dark, and Gray was in need of medical attention due to the altercation. Gray needed to get his vehicle keys out of Conroy's house in order to leave. Gray was shot by Conroy with no verbal warning.

While Conroy claims the shooting was in self-defense, available evidence suggests the use of deadly force may not have been reasonable under the circumstances. The Walker County Grand Jury returned an indictment for murder under Texas Penal Code § 19.02 on the date of February 20, 2025. Conroy was subsequently arrested on February 25, 2025, and released on a \$100,000 surety bond the following day.

Details of what happened that night could presumably lead a panel of jurors to consider a lesser charge of manslaughter were the District Attorney's Office interested, however, such opportunity was taken away when the District Attorney's Office dismissed the indictment, on May 30, 2025, without so much as a motion from the defense that the indictment be dismissed.

There are aspects of this case, including Conroy's statements not supported by fact, that call for the case to be publicly aired in a court of law. In fairness to Gray, Gray's family, and the safety of Walker County residents, this case deserves consideration and judgement by the Walker County community, through the function of a jury.

WITNESSES:

- Karen Conroy – Conroy's wife, believed to be only other person at the shooting scene when it happened.
- Kay Parker – Conroy's mother, visited by Conroy and Gray the afternoon before the shooting.
- Randy Gardner – Well known homebuilder in Huntsville area, visited by Conroy and Gray the afternoon before the shooting.

OFFICERS INVOLVED:

- Deputy Sidney Blair – First on the scene from the Walker County Sheriff's Department.
- Deputy Curtis Green – Deputy on scene the night of the shooting.

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- Deputy Matt Morris – Deputy that interviewed Conroy in the hospital the night of the shooting.
- Corporal Gregg Burks - Walker County S.O. on scene the night of the shooting.
- Deputy Danny Arce - Deputy on scene the night of the shooting.
- Deputy Malachi Frazier - Deputy on scene the night of the shooting.
- Detective Greg Williams – Case Agent, Walker County S.O.
- Sergeant Tom Bean - Walker County S.O., first officer to contact family about Hart's shooting.
- Deputy John Polkinghorn – Walker County S.O. Arresting officer (on February 25, 2025).
- Eric Scheiner – Walker County S.O., Supervisor.

ATTORNEYS:

- Will Durham – Fort Bend County District Attorney.
- Malori Martin – Fort Bend County Assistant District Attorney.
- Nicole Rodriguez – Conroy's initial defense attorney.
- Nicole R. Czajkoski – Conroy's second defense attorney, wife of former Conroe mayor, previously employed at Montgomery County District Attorney's Office.
- C. Bryan Cantrell – Conroy's most recent defense attorney.

EXPERTS:

- Roy Castleberry, Lead EMT, Walker County Emergency Medical Services, on scene the night of the shooting.
- Unknown female paramedic on scene the night of the shooting.
- Stephen Pustilnik, MD – Chief Medical Examiner, Fort Bend County.
- Varsha Podduturi – Fort Bend County Deputy Medical Examiner, signed the Post-Mortem Examination Report on the Chief Medical Examiner's letterhead.
- Geoffrey Corn – Professor, Texas Tech University, George R. Killam Jr. Chair of Criminal Law; Director, Center for Military Law & Policy.

CONTACTS ON VICTIM'S SIDE OF THE CASE:

- Ann Landeros – Hart Gray's sister.
- Susan Gray – Hart Gray's sister.
- Dana Shannon – longtime friend of Hart Gray.

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- Tim Shannon – longtime friend of Hart Gray.
- Ken Lybrand – private investigator hired by Gray’s family.

CONTACTS ON SUSPECT’S SIDE OF THE CASE:

- Cassidy Conroy Williford – Conroy’s daughter.
- Nicholas Williford – Conroy’s Son-in-law.
- Mike Williford – possible father or grandfather of Conroy’s son-in-law, Former Walker County Purchasing Agent.
- Bruce Williford – possibly related to Conroy’s son-in-law, Neighbor of D.A. Durham.
- Errol Martin Stivender – Neighbor of Pat Conroy.
- Carol Stivender – Neighbor of Pat Conroy.
- Mary Beth Nesmith – Randy Gardner’s girlfriend, Godmother to Deputy Matt Morris.

OTHERS:

- Leanne G. Woodward – Walker County Grand Jury Foreman.
- Marty Hulett Brown – original owner of shotgun used in the shooting.
- Wayne Dolcefino – President of Dolcefino Media, hired by Hart Gray’s family.

MATERIALS REVIEWED:

911 Call Transcript – August 7, 2023 (8:46 PM).

In Car Video Surveillance (ICVS) from:

- Deputy Sidney Blair’s police unit dated August 7, 2023.
- Deputy Curtis Green’s police unit front and backseat camera footage dated August 7, 2023.

Supplemental Binder, Walker County S.O. Case No. 2317778.

Crime Scene Photos (in Supplemental Binder).

Post Mortem Examination Report, Case No. 23-01820WK.

Walker County EMS Report, Incident No. 23-5262.

Grand Jury Indictment No. 32119, 278th Judicial District Court.

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Biology Laboratory Report (DNA Report), Texas Department of Public Safety, Walker County Sheriff's Office Case No. 2317778.

Toxicology Report, NMS Labs, Hartsell Gray, Patient ID 23-01820WK.

District Attorney's Motion to Dismiss (5/30/2025).

In-Person Interviews or Interview Attempts:

- Pat Conroy.
- Will Durham.
- Dana Shannon (Zoom).
- Geoffrey Corn (Zoom).

Phone interviews:

- C. Bryan Cantrell, Defense Attorney.
- Deputy Sidney Blair, Walker County S.O. (two calls).
- Sgt. Tom Bean, Walker County S.O.
- Mike Williford and his wife.
- Tim Shannon, friend of Hart.

Character Interview statements provided by Intelligence Services of Texas, LLC:

- Patricia Bellido.
- Tim Shannon.
- Mike Taylor.
- Dale Rhoades.

MATERIAL ISSUES RELEVANT TO A SELF-DEFENSE CLAIM:

1. Who started the fight?

Conroy and Gray are the only known witnesses to the altercation that occurred in the cab of Conroy's truck before the shooting. Conroy is the only one alive to recount what happened. As Gray is not alive to tell his side of the story, evidence needs to be scrutinized for clues. Witnesses who saw Gray the afternoon before the altercation indicate that they saw nothing in Gray's demeanor that indicated anger or hostility toward Conroy. Witness statements indicate both men had been drinking alcohol, but the blood/alcohol level in Gray's body

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was below the legal limit. This suggests, at most, a minimal impairment of judgement on the part of Gray. However, the blood/alcohol level of Conroy is not known. This lack of information is either because Conroy was not tested, or the documentation of his blood/alcohol test has not been revealed. If Conroy provoked Gray to use or attempt to use unlawful force, the self-defense claim is negated. This question needs the judgement of a jury. A grand jury returned a murder indictment in this case, indicating they did not see this as a case of self-defense.

2. Was Hart Gray or Pat Conroy injured first?

Answering this question may help answer the question who started the altercation. The physical injuries to Gray, prior to the gunshot wounds, presumably incurred inside the truck cab, and were more substantial over parts of his body than the injuries to Conroy. Conroy sustained a deep cut in his hand from the altercation, but the only other mention of additional injury derives from Deputy Morris's observation of a couple scratches on Conroy's face when he was at the hospital. Injuries to Gray, according to the postmortem report, include part of his left ear being bitten off and fresh contusions to the side of his face, lip, neck, right arm, right and left knees, and to his back.

The blood found on the blade of the knife belonged to Conroy, as would be expected due to the cut to Conroy's hand. However, the blood on the handle of the knife belonged to both Conroy and Gray. This suggests Gray may already have been bleeding, perhaps from his ear, when he cut Conroy's hand. Also, had Conroy's hand been cut before Gray sustained multiple contusions one would expect to see Conroy's blood distributed inside of the truck during the struggle. The only blood found in the truck belonged to Gray.

3. When was Conroy's hand cut?

Conroy claims multiple times to have been cut on his hand when he and Gray were in the truck. Conroy stated he struggled for twenty (20) to thirty (30) seconds to get out of the truck. DNA evidence does not support this. Conroy's blood was not found inside the truck. Detectives did find a substantial pool of Conroy's blood just outside the truck where he exited the driver's door. This suggests Gray could have finally landed a defensive blow to Conroy that made him exit the truck.

4. Where was Gray at the time of the shooting and how did the back door get open?

Dolcefino Media obtained crime scene photos and recordings from the WCSO as part of our review into the location where Hart was shot and killed. While still at the shooting scene, Conroy is heard on recordings from deputies' vehicles stating that Gray "was

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standing on the back porch” when he shot him. When Conroy was being interviewed by Deputy Matt Morris at the hospital that night, Conroy could not remember if the door was open or closed when he shot Gray. As there is an absence of a hole in the door, that leaves only three options: either the door was always open, Conroy opened the door to shoot Hart, or Hart opened the door and was then shot. As neither Conroy nor his wife made the claim that Hart opened the door, instead stating only that Hart was standing on the back porch when shot, that leaves only the two former options: either the door was always open or Conroy opened the door to shoot Hart. Both options lend any reasonable person to ask the following question: were Conroy truly in fear of his life, why would he not immediately—upon entering his residence—close the door and lock it, then check the windows to ensure they were secure? This appears to have been a man fueled by anger rather than fear of his life. A fearful man would secure the threshold into his residence before retreating to secure a firearm; not the inverse.

Also, at the hospital Conroy told Deputy Morris he was inside the door and Gray was outside the door when he fired the shots. Conroy also indicated the distance between himself and Gray to be about six (6) feet. It is also worth noting that just over one (1) minute after saying Gray was outside the house when he shot him, Conroy asked the deputy if he was providing too much information that would put him “in a bind down the road.” This suggests Conroy was already thinking his judgement in shooting Gray could be called into question.

When Conroy was interviewed approximately one and half (1.5) years later, after being indicted and hiring a new attorney, he indicated that Gray was three (3) to four (4) feet from him and that Gray had one (1) foot on the threshold when he shot him. These statements are substantially different from statements the night of the shooting. The possibility exists that Conroy was coached by the new attorney to change his story in a manner that would suggest a Castle Doctrine defense.

Crime scene photos show Gray’s body laid down outside the back door. His head is farthest from the door. His feet are closest to the door, about twenty (20) inches from the threshold. A thick wet pool of blood about six (6) inches in diameter is on the doormat, with a sprinkling of dry blood spatter on the threshold of the door and inside the house. This appears to show that while Gray was close to the door, he was not on the threshold when he was shot. If he had been on the threshold, one might expect Gray’s blood to have splattered in the doorway of the house, but there is no visual evidence of this.

5. **Why did Conroy fire his shotgun twice, and was the first shot to Hart’s back or his front?**

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Deputy Matt Morris asked Conroy how many times he shot Gray but never asked Conroy why he fired the second shot. Investigators may presume that Gray was facing Conroy when the first shot was fired, but the postmortem report specifically says coroners did not determine which wound was inflicted first. This leaves open the possibility that Gray could have turned his back to Conroy when he saw Conroy coming at him with a gun, therefore taking the first shot in his back. This also indicates an intention to kill, denoting the well-known tactic of a “double tap,” whereas one shoots twice to ensure death. This is bolstered by the wounds locations on both sides of Hart’s body.

6. Which of Pat and Karen Conroy’s statements about words exchanged between Conroy and Gray are true?

The night of the shooting, Conroy made conflicting statements about what Gray said to him and when he said it. Multiple times he said Gray said nothing to him other than what was argued about in the truck. At another time Conroy said Gray said, “fuck you,” when he was standing outside his house before Conroy shot him.

Karen Conroy, who was standing in the kitchen near the back door, said she heard no exchange of words between Conroy and Gray before the shots were fired.

The night of the shooting, Karen Conroy’s statement was that her husband told her Gray had gone crazy and that her husband did not tell her Gray was trying to kill him. She was adamant enough about this distinction to correct a deputy who was paraphrasing her statement to another deputy on the scene. However, approximately one and a half (1.5) years after the incident—after her husband had secured new defense representation—when questioned in March 2025, her statement changed to say her husband told her that Gray was trying to kill him. Again, this suggests coaching on the part of a new attorney to establish the Castle Doctrine.

The night of the shooting Karen Conroy’s statement was that when her husband came into the kitchen with the shotgun she was saying, “don’t do it, don’t do it,” trying to calm her husband down. In the March 2025 interview—at least from the summary written in the supplemental report—Karen Conroy was not asked what she said to her husband. This is a key omission in questioning and could suggest a bias by investigators if they wanted to avoid getting answers to questions that would make Conroy look bad.

7. Did Pat Conroy’s incomplete account of the altercation, and then lack of cooperation after employment of new defense attorney, indicate intent to deceive investigators?

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Conroy did not tell investigators the night of the shooting that he bit Gray's ear. According to the supplemental report notes by Deputy Matt Morris, damage to Gray's ear was discovered in the autopsy on August 10, 2023. Deputy Morris states that he called Conroy and left a message asking him to call back that day. There is no mention that Conroy called Deputy Morris back.

On August 11, 2023, Deputy Morris and Detective Williams drove to Conroy's house and found him and his wife there. They asked Conroy if he would come to the Sheriff's Department to make an additional statement and Pat said he could not because of a doctor's appointment. Later that same day, Attorney Nicole Czajkoski called Deputy Morris declaring that she was now representing Conroy and wanted to be present during further questioning. She did not commit to allowing another interview and there is no mention of Czajkoski ever contacting the Sheriff's Department after that. Conroy stopped cooperating when deputies discovered he had bitten Hart's ear off. Investigators now knew that Conroy had not been completely truthful with his statements.

8. Why did Conroy drive past his driveway the night of their argument?

The night of the shooting, Conroy did not explain why he drove past his driveway, and continued on to a back, wooded area of his property. However, during his March 2025 interview Conroy explained that he was going to take Gray to see beehives.

This is somewhat of an odd excuse because it was 8:30 PM and dark outside, per witness accounts. Based upon information and belief, honeybees are not normally outside of the hive at that time. Additionally, shining a light on a hive can make bees defensive, and such would not constitute a wise maneuver to do without wearing protective clothing.

If Gray was acting out of character and angry at Conroy, one would think Conroy would choose to exit his vehicle sooner rather than later to get away from Gray. Conroy was in control of this situation as he was in the driver's seat. Conroy chose to stay in the truck with Gray, and drive past his home into a dark area of his property. Conroy told detectives that when he did drive past his driveway, that's when Gray "clawed his face." If this is true, perhaps Gray took it to mean Conroy was going to harm him.

9. Was Conroy impaired by alcohol or drugs when he shot Gray?

There is no evidence that a blood/alcohol or toxicology test was conducted on Conroy. There is no discussion about it in the report and no documentation of it found either. This appears to be a major oversight by investigators as the person who just shot and killed someone admitted he had been drinking that afternoon. Such oversight could indicate a

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friendly bias toward Conroy due to direct and indirect relationships between Conroy's family and Walker County Sheriff's Office personnel.

10. Were Hart Gray's age, a senior citizen 70 years old, and his physical limitations considered? If they were, would Conroy's account of Gray's behavior seem reasonable?

Gray's age and/or physical frailty do not appear to have been taken into consideration in this investigation. There is nothing written in the detective's notes about these aspects of the case. There is no indication that the Sheriff's Office ever called any of Hart's doctors to gain an understanding of Gray's mental or physical limitations the night he was shot. There is no indication that the Sheriff's Office tried to weigh the probability of Conroy's story with what witnesses knew of Gray's physical conditions.

Interviews of witnesses who knew Gray well were provided by Intelligence Services of Texas, LLC. While the documents were found in the supplemental binder, these character witness statements do not appear to have been considered in the investigation. The only reference to the interviews in the investigative file was that they were scanned in by the Sheriff's Office. There is no mention in the case notes that a detective had read them, let alone taken the character witness statements into consideration.

Gray's frailty would explain why he would have needed to drive Conroy's truck to the house. Gray's friends stated that Gray could barely walk a few yards without being out of breath and needing to rest. The distance between the truck and the house was more than 100 feet. The fact that Gray crashed Conroy's truck into a vehicle in the driveway was interpreted by investigators as aggression, whereas it could also be explained, as a senior citizen having a medical crisis.

Also, were Gray's frailty and quickness to fatigue considered, investigators might have questioned whether Gray could have been a legitimate threat to Conroy's life when he approached Conroy's house. After what was obviously a violent altercation inside the cab of Conroy's truck, Gray could simply have needed medical care. There were no other options for care near the house as the house is in a remote wooded area. No other homes are visible from Conroy's house.

11. Was Gray a continuous threat if he was not armed with a weapon or acting in a threatening manner?

In addition to Gray's likely physical weakness after the altercation, when Gray approached Conroy's house he was unarmed. His knife was in his pocket, not in his hand.

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Furthermore, Karen Conroy's consistent statement, and at least one of Conroy's statements, indicates that Gray said nothing approaching the house just before the shots were fired. With these two elements taken into consideration, Gray was not approaching Conroy in a threatening manner. A jury might believe that Conroy made a reckless judgement killing Gray, which would be considered voluntary manslaughter.

12. Was Gray's status as a guest at Conroy's house, with personal belongings inside the house, considered?

Investigators seemed to interpret Gray's approach to Conroy's house only one way: *to present a continued threat to the safety of Conroy and his wife*. However, Gray had nowhere else to go. The house was in a remote location and Gray needed medical care. His best option was to go to his family member's house. Even if Gray planned to leave to get medical care elsewhere, or drive to his own home, he would first have to go inside Conroy's house to get his car keys.

Even if Gray had stepped onto the threshold of the house as Conroy's March 2025 statement indicated, Gray had some right to be there. As an invited guest with personal belongings in the house, Conroy should have expected Gray to approach his house. Gray's best option to get away from Conroy was to get his car keys out of the house and drive away.

Gray was not saying anything, let alone saying anything threatening, when he approached Conroy's house. He also was not wielding a weapon. A reasonable person would have, at least, warned Gray not to come into the house, yet Conroy said nothing to Gray before shooting him.

13. Did the March 6, 2025, interviews of Pat and Karen Conroy clear up outstanding questions and settle inconsistencies in their stories?

No. The new statements introduced new conflicts in their statements to police:

- Conroy changed his story to state that Gray had stepped on the threshold of the door when he pulled the trigger, instead of multiple statements he made the night of the shooting that Gray was outside the house.
- Karen Conroy changed her story to state that her husband told her Gray was trying to kill him, despite being adamant the night of the shooting that her husband only said Gray had gone crazy.

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- Conroy stated that he drove past the driveway to show Gray the honeybee hives, even though this makes little sense to do at night. Was the reasonableness of this statement even considered?
- Regarding the 911 operators request to check on Gray and possibly render aid, Karen and her husband gave two different explanations for why she didn't immediately comply:
 - a. Karen Conroy says her husband was telling her Gray was already dead. Conroy told investigators he did not want Gray to be able to hurt his wife were he to "rall[y] and bec[o]me conscious." These are very different statements and warrant consideration as to Conroy's honesty and intent. If Conroy thought Gray could recover from the gunshot wounds yet did not want to render aid, his intent that night was to kill Gray.
 - b. Karen Conroy stated that when her husband ran past her entering the house the night of the shooting, he told her to "leave" which she interpreted as leaving the house to go outside. She said this confused her because he was telling her to go outside where the danger was. Is it possible Conroy had already decided he was going to shoot Gray and did not want her to see it?

14. What would a reasonable person have done to minimize any continuing conflict in this situation?

A reasonable person would have run to safety and locked the doors behind him. If the person outside the house continued to be a threat, police should have been called to handle the situation. It appears that from the moment Conroy got out of his truck and called his wife, Conroy planned to shoot Gray. He told his wife on the phone to get his gun. Instead of running into the house to lock the doors, he ran to get his gun out of his bedroom. Instead of a verbal warning to Gray as he approached the house, Conroy shot him without saying anything. Conroy apparently intended to escalate the previous violent conflict by shooting Gray. He shot his cousin either in the back or in the chest with no warning. Even though one shot likely neutralized the threat, Conroy shot him a second time, making sure his cousin was dead.

15. Was the investigation tainted by the detective's familiarity with Conroy and his family?

Statements made and recorded on audio the night of the shooting confirm friendships or friendliness toward Conroy:

1. The captain on scene used to be Conroy's neighbor.
2. Pat Conroy's daughter, Cassidy, is friends with Deputy Danny Arce.

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3. Sheriff's Office investigators and deputies knew one of the witnesses, Randy Gardner.
4. Deputy Matt Morris's godmother is Gardner's girlfriend. This might seem an obscure connection, but it was apparently known to others in the department. It was not just spoken about that night by Deputy Matt Morris but also independently by Detective Greg Williams.

Highlights of recorded statements:

Captain, WCSO to Pat Conroy: I'm captain. I'm captain. You remember me? We used to live down the road from each other, okay?

Captain, WCSO to Pat Conroy: I know y'all are good people, okay? Okay, so everything's gonna be figured out. (pat's crying in the background) no, I know that. It's going to be ok.

Det. Greg Williams to Karen Conroy: So, you know I know and I don't think your husband's done anything wrong as far as we know right now.

Det. Greg Williams to Karen Conroy: Well just take a deep breath and know that in the end everything's gonna be okay. No matter what, everything's gonna eventually be okay. Alright? Alright?

Det. Greg Williams to Karen Conroy: Like I say, bad things happen to good people.

16. Was there enough evidence to get a murder conviction beyond a reasonable doubt?

Walker County grand jurors felt there was enough evidence to indict Conroy for murder, anticipating the case would get a full trial in a court of law. District Attorney Will Durham decided to dismiss the case and disregard the will of the public. Gray's family members say they were told the District Attorney's Office was not going to prosecute because Conroy's actions were protected by the Castle Doctrine, and Conroy was saying the shooting was in self-defense. However, there are multiple elements that call into question whether or not the Castle Doctrine applies in this case. There are also multiple elements that negate a self-defense plea.

A person claiming self-defense under Tex. Penal Code §§ 9.31 - 9.33 cannot have provoked an attack that led to the use of force. Evidence suggests the possibility that

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Conroy provoked the attack as his story is not consistent with physical evidence found at the scene.

Evidence and testimony also suggest fatally shooting Gray was unnecessary and excessive. Conroy had other, less lethal options, to end the conflict. Gray had a certain right to be at Conroy's house. Even if a jury would not agree on a murder conviction, Conroy, an able-bodied man, shot and killed an unarmed and frail senior citizen who was not approaching him in a threatening manner. Conroy might still be found guilty of voluntary manslaughter.

EXCERPTS OF EVIDENCE AND STATEMENTS THAT SHOW WHY THIS CASE DESERVES A FULL HEARING IN A COURT OF LAW.

PAT CONROY STATEMENTS AT SCENE

The following dialogue is excerpted from Deputy Sidney Blair's dash camera footage dated August 7, 2023, and includes questions and observations posed by Dolcefino Media and the relevant dialogue immediately following, time codes included. Dialogue may not be an exact transcription.

Where was Hart when Pat shot him?

[00:08:54] Pat Conroy: That's it. He was standing on the back porch.

Pat statement regarding suicide and burning in hell:

[00:15:35] Pat Conroy: He better not have tried to commit suicide now. I'm gonna be... I'll be burning hell because he didn't do that. We didn't deserve that. We did not deserve that. He didn't deserve to do that.

Pat describes an altercation between Hart and himself in which it is alleged that Hart cut Pat:

Pat appears to give different versions of this altercation spread over multiple different interviews.

[00:18:39] Pat Conroy: I didn't even know he cut me. I said, 'damn it.' I said, 'cuz did you just cut me?' He said, 'I cut you mother fucker.' I said, 'why you cut

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me?’ He says, ‘because you’re being stupid.’ I said, ‘what do you mean I’m being stupid? I’m taking you home. You’re wasting my time.’ I said, ‘I’m wasting your time?’

The following dialogue is excerpted from Deputy Curtis Green’s backseat camera footage dated August 7, 2023, and includes questions and observations posed by Dolcefino Media and the relevant dialogue immediately following, time codes included. Dialogue may not be an exact transcription.

Pat conversing with unknown female paramedic and Deputy Green:

Pat could possibly have been providing information regarding his mental and physical conditions to this paramedic. Dolcefino Media possesses the Walker County EMS report for Hart but does not possess the report on Pat. Pat was treated on the scene and then transported via ambulance to the hospital. It may be worth requesting the report, but due to HIPAA and third-party privacy laws, it could be difficult to procure.

Pat also appears to be more worried about getting a dip than anything else.

[00:20:22] Female paramedic: Okay, and I have a couple questions for you. Are you on any blood thinners?

Pat Conroy: No ma’am, no ma’am.

Female paramedic: Okay. What history do you have?

Pat Conroy: Hard working.

Female paramedic: No medical history?

Pat Conroy: No. No. Um... minimal... [unintelligible].

Pat Conroy: Minimal blood pressure issues.

Unknown male: Okay, so, that finger’s almost gone.

Deputy Green: That’s fine. The man you need to talk to is the man with the cowboy hat. That’s my sergeant.

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Female paramedic: This is gonna hurt real bad. We gotta put a tourniquet on your arm. It's still actively bleeding [illegible].

Pat Conroy: That's fine, that's fine, yeah. It don't hurt right now at all. It don't hurt right now at all. Well, yeah, I'll tell you what, wait, wait a minute, wait a minute. Can't somebody get me a dip of snuff before [illegible] Karen, get me a dip of snuff please.

[00:21:15] Deputy Green: Let them put that tourniquet, get your hand cleaned up and they'll get you.

Pat Conroy: Alright.

PAT CONROY STATEMENTS AT HOSPITAL

The following dialogue is excerpted from Deputy Matt Morris's Hospital Interview of Pat Conroy dated August 7, 2023, and includes questions and observations posed by Dolcefino Media and the relevant dialogue immediately following, time codes included. Dialogue may not be an exact transcription.

Pat Conroy statement displaying what could be construed as a selfish statement:

[00:02:07] Pat Conroy: My god, my family does not deserve this right now.

Pat Conroy showing more concern about cleaning than the death of his cousin:

[00:19:32] Pat Conroy: I need to get I mean, do I gotta go pressure wash this stuff or...?

Potentially indicative of Pat's intention to shoot Hart:

[00:09:27] Pat Conroy: I'm calling my wife. I'm back up in the trees. I'm like, baby, open the back door. Let me in. Get the gun. Get the gun. He's coming. She's like, who's coming? That's Hart. He's crazy.

Pat disregards the severity of what has occurred in a very insensitive statement:

[00:14:19] Pat Conroy: Don't take my gun though because I got some duck hunting here to you know.

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Deputy Morris: Yeah, season's coming up here soon.

Pat Conroy: And look, I'll be got, I'll be damned this is gonna ruin it.

Pat Conroy: I hope not. I hope not because that'll be of dad gum stain on another stain.

Pat admits not knowing where he was when he shot Hart:

[00:15:33] Pat Conroy: I don't even know if the door got open. Did I shoot him through the door? Did they say?

Pat's feelings were hurt:

[00:36:48] Pat Conroy: He's got this just... I mean... this like it's almost a blank look. Really hurt my feelings pretty bad.

Pat is unaware of when his hand was cut. It appears that Pat contradicts himself in this interview:

[00:38:43] Pat Conroy: You come past my driveway; there's a kind of an area you could drive through.

Deputy Morris: Okay.

Pat Conroy: That's where we brought all the concrete, concrete trucks in and everything. Right as we were pulling in there, is about time I realized I'm bleeding.

Later in the interview. Indicative of Pat knowing exactly when he was cut:

[00:40:16] Pat Conroy: Now I'm trying to get my seatbelt off. I'm halfway up in that cut through area to go back up in. I mean I'm very on my dogs right there. All our family dogs, you know, driving through the and I'm like, fuck, I gotta get out of this truck. I can't get away. I'm trying to get my seat belt off and I hold my hand up, and I'm holding my hand up. I'm not I'm not even sure exactly when he swiped, but he made a move. And he swiped. I see blood, but I didn't feel nothing.

Pat says words were exchanged just before he pulled the trigger and cannot remember where he got the gun or which door he entered the home through:

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[00:41:42] Pat Conroy: I run in and I said, 'Get in the bedroom, run, get out of here.' And I grabbed the shotgun and I think golly, ma, I can't even remember which door I went in. I can't remember if I went in off the carport door or the French doors. That's okay. That's alright. So, I can't remember which door... Now I'm in panic mode and I'm running.

Deputy Morris: Okay.

[00:42:13] Pat Conroy: And the next thing I know, my truck is up underneath the car port. He's driving and he's standing in front of the door and I'm like, baby, get back, look out. And the door opens and there he is, and I was like, and he's like, 'fuck you.' And I was... I had to... I grabbed that gun. I can't remember if the gun was behind that door or in the behind the bedroom door.

Pat alleges Hart threatened him:

[01:13:04] Pat Conroy: I didn't realize he had cut me 'til I see the blood running down and I didn't know why it was running down. Right. I never felt it and I seen it in his... I was like, 'you cut me,' and he goes, 'I'm gonna cut you again.'

Pat alleges that Hart did not say anything outside of what was said in the truck:

[01:10:25] Deputy Morris: What's he saying to you?

Pat Conroy: He didn't say nothing.

Deputy Morris: Okay.

Pat Conroy: Look, I mean he never said nothing... other than when I'm telling you when we were driving down the road, I was like, 'man, what's wrong? Fuck you. You talking in circles.'

Deputy Morris observes scratches on Pat's face that Pat can't explain. They could be defensive wounds, as in Hart defending himself from Pat. Dolcefino Media did not receive any photographs of Pat's injuries. Pat admits that he may have punched Hart to get away from him, but Hart's multiple bruises and the fact that Hart was missing a piece of his ear, is not mentioned by Pat to Deputy Morris:

[00:55:58] Deputy Morris: What about the scratch on your on your right cheek right here? And your temple. You don't know? That's all right.

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Pat Conroy: You know, I mean is this all my blood? Is any of this his blood?

Pat's shirt was taken into evidence but there is no mention of it in the DNA report. It is unknown if any forensic test was done on the shirt.

Pat's account of when he was cut doesn't match physical evidence as the only blood found in the truck was Hart's blood:

[01:03:39] Pat Conroy: I'm not sure his hand was like, it's like his, it's almost like his left hand was in my face here and I'm trying to see what's and I'm like, what the hell? And I'm trying to get out of the truck. When I held my hand up like this, I saw blood dripping. I never felt the cut.

Pat comments regarding number of shots and type of shells used:

[00:42:49] Deputy Morris: How many times did you shoot? Twice. You shot?

Pat Conroy: Over-under. I've shot him twice.

Deputy Morris: What load do you keep do you keep in that gun?

Pat Conroy: I think those were probably eights in there. I don't know for sure. I've got some buckshot, but I don't... I try not to leave buckshot in it. You keep bird shot in it... I try to keep bird shot or number fours.

Deputy Morris: Yeah.

Pat Conroy: Buck shot go through too many walls and hurt too many innocent people.

Deputy Morris: You think you're thinking with your head there. I appreciate that.

Pat Conroy: Yeah, I mean number fours is a good number to go through a door if you gotta kill somebody. Dude, I shouldn't have to do what I had to do tonight.

Pat details the altercation, contradicting an earlier statement stating that Hart swiped at him and cut him:

[01:02:28] Pat Conroy: I was moving, I was struggling, trying to get I all I know is I was trying to get out of my truck. Okay. And I couldn't get my seat belt off.

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Deputy Morris: Okay.

Pat Conroy: We were pulled in, we weren't quite to the part where I pulled back in front of the house. Wasn't quite back to that point.

Deputy Morris: Right. But you stopped.

Pat Conroy: I went I when I got it stopped and I'm holding my hand up I don't know what trying to get my damn seat belt off and the door opened. I don't know when he cut me. I don't know when he cut me.

Deputy Morris: Do you remember... do you remember him hitting you at all? Like what I mean by like, do you remember seeing him like swipe at you, swing at you?

Pat Conroy: Not really. You know, I mean, I mean, my hands were moving.

Deputy Morris: When, let me ask you this, when do you remember when do you remember seeing the first sign of blood on your hand? Were you still in the truck?

Pat Conroy: Yeah, I was still in the truck.

Deputy Morris: Okay.

Pat Conroy: So, there should be blood in the truck.

Deputy Morris: Cool.

Pat Conroy: But I think I had my hand up like this. I don't know why I don't know why when I don't know why when he cut me. I never felt it. I don't know why.

Pat states that he entered the house from one of the back doors, contradicting his wife's statement that he came through the front door:

French doors are located at the "back" of the home.

The blood trail shows that Pat entered through the front of the home.

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[01:08:12] Pat Conroy: I'm driving the truck. Right. I get out of the truck and start running. And I run behind that little patio and then up the drive, you know, up the steep part into the carport. I don't know if I went in the French doors or the door right there, the closest door, or the French doors. There's two doors. There's one that goes under the carport and French doors that come onto the patio. And it's I mean it's all connected, you know.

Deputy Morris: Okay.

Pat Conroy: I can't remember which one. I'm in panic... I was in panic mode. That's okay. I was in panic mode. It's okay.

Pat previously stated that he got the gun from the bedroom, but then contradicts himself by this statement:

Pat also did not know if Hart had a knife in his hand.

[01:09:19] Pat Conroy: As soon as I got a hold of the gun and turned around, he was there, and I'm pretty sure he had his knife in his hand still. And I'm like, I'm like he's trying to... he... it's like he's trying to get in the door. He's battling it. And I shot him. I had to.

Distance between Pat and Hart:

[01:10:04] Deputy Morris: How close to him do you think you were?

Pat Conroy: From here to that red drawer.

Deputy Morris: Okay.

Pat Conroy: Right.

Deputy Morris: You say about six foot?

Pat Conroy: Foot, four foot, six foot, whatever. I mean, I can't.

Deputy Morris: But you're inside the house, right?

Pat Conroy: Cool. Yeah, I'm just inside the door. Yes.

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Deputy Morris: And he's and he is just...

Pat Conroy: Outside the door.

Pat admits to drinking that evening:

[01:15:54] Deputy Morris: How many how many beers do you have throughout the day?

Pat Conroy: Three.

Deputy Morris: Three. And it from what time to what time?

Pat Conroy: From probably two to five thirty.

Deputy Morris: Okay. And you drink you said Miller Light?

Pat Conroy: No, I think they were Yuengling.

A little over a minute after Pat informs Deputy Morris that Hart was located outside the house when shot, Pat inquires if he is providing too much information:

[01:11:33] Pat Conroy: Do I need to do I need to back off? Do I see need to say, okay, I need to go no further?

Deputy Morris: Do what now?

Pat Conroy: Do I need to go no further?

Deputy Morris: No, it's up to you. I'm... what I'm trying to do.

Pat Conroy: I mean I don't wanna get myself in a bind down the road because I mean I didn't do nothing wrong.

Pat shows hesitancy in providing a DNA sample and appears paranoid about being in a data web:

[01:17:24] Deputy Morris: All right. And then would you provide me a DNA sample?

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Pat Conroy: What's the DNA sample for?

Deputy Morris: It's the comparisons. To find your blood on scene and to find his blood on scene.

Pat Conroy: And if I said no on that?

Deputy Morris: Then I would just have to get a search warrant and do it that way. Yeah.

Pat Conroy: Okay. More taxpayer dollars?

Deputy Morris: It's up to you. It's your it's your constitutional rights. Understand that.

Pat Conroy: Right, I'm standing right. Right, right. I mean and you understand that.

Deputy Morris: One hundred percent.

Pat Conroy: I don't wanna be I don't wanna be in the in the web... in the data web. Probably already am.

Odd dialogue between Deputy Morris and Pat regarding snuff, bribes, and a "reconstitutional war":

[01:18:16] Pat Conroy: What do you prefer?

Deputy Morris: No, no, I can't answer that for you. I can't answer that. You know that. I'm telling you.

Pat Conroy: Where the pouches at?

Deputy Morris: The pouches?

Pat Conroy: Where they at?

Deputy Morris: I got some in the truck. But I can't... I can't... I can't... I can't do it... I can't do it under a bribe.

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Pat Conroy: No oh no.

Deputy Morris: Not saying you're bribing me. I just it's gotta be one hundred percent consentful from your part. And if it's not then I don't mind getting a search warrant. Just understand that.

[01:20:02] Pat Conroy: If... at... man, I'm gonna tell you what, if some of them daggum pouches can fall out somewhere, I would just love to have me a dip of snuff.

Deputy Morris: Well I tell you what, let me see what I... no... what I can do. But you're in here.

Pat Conroy: Don't get in trouble for that.

Deputy Morris: I don't get in trouble for that. Oh, I'm not gonna get in trouble. I'm good. I'm good. That's one thing about me, man, is I one hundred percent go by the constitution. That is what I swore to, and I'm gonna go by that. And that's my rights and your rights, you know what I mean?

Pat Conroy: And you know what? Look, if you don't have nothing to hide, you should... you should be able to this in good faith.

Deputy Morris: Yes sir. One hundred percent agree.

Pat Conroy: If you can't then we have to have... a we need to have a big time reconstitutional war or whatever...

Deputy Morris: Let's not do that.

Pat Conroy: We need to get it right. Yeah, because I mean our forefathers fought for all this.

PAT CONROY'S MARCH 6, 2025, INTERVIEW AT HUNTSVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

This analysis includes excerpted notations from Detective Williams's interview of Conroy. Wording may be paraphrased and not exact. This analysis also includes questions and

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observations by Dolcefino Media. Dolcefino Media's notes are based upon the investigative notes, not a transcription or recording of Conroy's interview.

This interview took place more than 1.5 years after the shooting. Conroy had been indicted the previous month and hired a new lawyer.

The interview was conducted at the Huntsville Police Department as, according to investigative notes, the Sheriff's Department's recording device wasn't working.

Supervisor Eric Scheiner wrote in a report in May of 2025 that Detective Williams conducted the interview of Conroy in March and says that in Conroy's March 6, 2025, interview, "Conroy's story didn't substantially deviate from the original version."

Scheiner also wrote in his report, the night of the shooting, that Karen Conroy was told by Conroy that Hart was trying to kill him.

This is not what she said, and she even corrected the Deputy who was saying that in recapping the events surrounding the shooting.

Conroy claims he told his wife on the phone that Hart was trying to kill him and then told her that again when he saw her face to face.

This statement is inconsistent with what his wife said the night of the shooting. Karen Conroy told deputies her husband did not say Hart was trying to kill him. Instead, she said that Pat only said Hart had gone crazy.

Conroy claims he told his wife to open the back door but she opened the front door instead.

Conroy claims they visited Randy Gardner for about forty-five (45) minutes.

Randy Gardner's statement the night of the shooting, as written in Deputy Todd Barrow's investigative report, was that Conroy and Hart were at his house "maybe a few hours." In the same paragraph, Barrow writes that Gardner says, "both stayed and visited several hours, had a few beers and then they left."

Deputy Matt Morris, during his interview of Conroy in the hospital also stated that they were both mutual acquaintances/friends of Randy Gardner.

Conroy says the physical altercation started in the cab of his truck before he brought the truck to a stop.

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Conroy claims he was cut and saw blood going down his arm and that it took another twenty (20) to thirty (30) seconds after he was cut to get out of the truck. During that time, they were physically fighting.

The fact they didn't find any of Conroy's blood in the truck does not support Conroy's statement that he was cut in the truck. It is possible that Conroy was stabbed as he was exiting the truck. That would have been after Hart's ear was bitten off.

DNA analysis of the knife found only Conroy's blood on the blade of the knife, but both Conroy and Hart's blood on the handle of the knife. This could indicate that Hart had already been bleeding prior the cutting of Conroy—most likely due to Hart's ear being bitten.

Conroy claims that Hart opened the back door and took one step into the threshold of the back door. He "laid him down" when Hart was about to come into the house.

This contradicts what he said the night of the shooting—that Hart was "standing on the back porch" or "outside" while Conroy was standing inside.

Conroy contends that the distance between himself and Hart was 3-4' in this new interview.

Inconsistent with previous statement to Deputy Morris at the hospital that they were about 6' apart.

Conroy said he didn't want Karen to go near Hart (as the 911 dispatcher was telling her) because he was afraid Hart might try to hurt her if he "rallied" and became conscious.

This is contradicted by Conroy's wife who says Conroy was telling her Hart was dead.

Conroy claimed he drove past the first driveway to take Hart to the bee hives.

KAREN CONROY STATEMENTS

The following dialogue is excerpted from Deputy Sidney Blair's dash camera footage dated August 7, 2023, and includes questions and observations posed by Dolcefino Media and the relevant dialogue immediately following, time codes included. Dialogue may not be an exact transcription.

[00:36:05] **Karen Conroy:** He just said... he just said that his cousin went crazy.

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The following dialogue is excerpted from Detective Greg Williams's interview of Karen Conroy, and includes questions and observations posed by Dolcefino Media and the relevant dialogue immediately following, time codes included. Dialogue may not be an exact transcription.

[00:52:17] Karen Conroy: They were visiting them, my in-laws, and they were coming home and my husband called me and he I could tell he was distressed, but I didn't understand what was going on, why there would be a problem, you know? And I accidentally hung up on him. And so I called him right back and he said, 'open the front door, open the front door.' And he's like, 'Hart's gone crazy.'

Karen Conroy: But the back doors are you know, when we're home, they're usually unlocked 'cause we let the dogs in and out and whatever, in and out of the house. So, my husband came in the house and he said, 'get the gun, get the,' I think he said 357 And I said, 'I don't know what you're talking I don't know one gun from the other.'

Karen Conroy: So, he said he said, 'he's coming in, he's coming in,' and the next thing I know, I was trying to tell him my husband stop. I was trying to calm him down and I was trying to figure out what was going on. Because I had no idea what the hell was happening.

Karen Conroy: And I was trying to calm him calm him down and say, don't do that, you know, don't do that and next thing I know, Hart was trying to come in come to my back door and my husband shot him two times.

No exchange of words before the shot:

[01:03:54] Det. Greg Williams: Okay. Okay. So, you didn't hear exchange of words or anything like that?

Karen Conroy: No.

Karen Conroy corrected one of the investigators as he was describing her statement to another investigator:

[01:16:40] Det. Greg Williams: He's saying, 'open the door, open the door. Hart's trying to kill me.' Okay. And...

Karen Conroy: No, he said that Hart was got had gone crazy.

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Det. Greg Williams: Yeah.

Karen Conroy: He did not say he's trying to kill...

Det. Greg Williams: You said, he's gone crazy.

Karen Conroy: He's gone crazy.

Det. Greg Williams: Okay.

Karen Conroy: Gone crazy and he had already cut him.

Karen Conroy did not give a gun to her husband; he got it himself:

[01:17:53] Det. Greg Williams: You gave him a gun.

Karen Conroy: I did not give him a gun.

Det. Greg Williams: You didn't?

Karen Conroy: No sir, I did not touch a gun at all. My husband asked for a 357. I said, 'I don't know what gun that is.' He said, 'I'll get it myself.'

MARCH 6, 2025, INTERVIEW OF KAREN CONROY AT HUNTSVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

This analysis includes excerpted notations from Karen Conroy's interview. Wording may be paraphrased and not exact. This analysis also includes questions and observations by Dolcefino Media. Dolcefino Media's notes are based upon the investigative notes, not a transcription or recording of Pat's interview.

Karen says she got a call around 8:30pm from her husband in a panic, telling her to get the gun.

Karen says that, on the phone, Conroy told her Gray was trying to kill him.

This contradicts what she specifically told deputies the night of the shooting. She said on August 7, 2023, that Conroy only said Hart was crazy.

Karen says her husband told her to open the front door.

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This contradicts what Conroy said in his March 6, 2025 interview, that he told his wife to open the back door.

Karen says her husband told her, at the time he ran past her, entering the house, that she “needed to leave,” but that confused her because the danger was outside and Pat was her protector.

Did that imply that Conroy didn’t want his wife to see what he knew he was about to do?

Karen called 911 and was told by the dispatcher to check to see if Gray was alive. Her husband was telling her not to check on Hart and that he was not alive.

This contradicts Conroy’s statement in his March 6, 2025, interview because Conroy told investigators he thought Gray could still hurt her.

It’s very interesting to note that in the summary of this interview with Karen Conroy, there is no mention of whether she said anything to Pat in the house. She told them the night of the shooting that she was saying “Don’t do it. Don’t do it.” Wouldn’t a usual question in a follow-up interview be “What were you doing? Were you saying anything?” especially considering that Karen was asked if her husband was saying anything.

STATEMENTS FROM THE DEPUTIES ON AUGUST 7, 2023

Deputies confirm friendships or friendliness to parties involved.

It appears they were sympathetic to Pat and Karen Conroy’s situation:

- The captain on scene used to be Conroy’s neighbor.
- Pat Conroy’s daughter, Cassidy, is friends with Deputy Danny Arce.
- Sheriff’s department investigators and deputies know one of the witnesses, Randy Gardner.
- Deputy Matt Morris’s godmother is Gardner’s girlfriend. This might seem an obscure connection, but it was apparently known to others in the department. It was not just spoken about that night by Matt Morris but also independently by Greg Williams.

The following dialogue is excerpted from Deputy Sidney Blair’s dash camera footage dated August 7, 2023, and affirms the aforementioned observations. Dialogue may not be an exact transcription.

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[00:28:37] Captain, WCSO: I'm captain. I'm captain. You remember me? We used to live down the road from each other, okay?

Pat Conroy: Oh my god.

Captain, WCSO: Okay. Calm down, right? And you're gonna calm down by now. Okay, I can't have the thing. I know. I know. It's some hard belief, okay?

Pat Conroy: I mean you see it on tv.

Captain, WCSO: I know y'all are good people, okay? Okay, so everything's gonna be figured out. (pat's crying in the background) no, I know that. It's going to be ok.

The following dialogue is excerpted from Detective Greg Williams's interview of Karen Conroy, and affirms the aforementioned observations. Dialogue may not be an exact transcription

[01:11:45] Det. Greg Williams: So, you know I know and I don't think your husband's done anything wrong as far as we know right now.

Det. Greg Williams: I'm just we're trying to put everything together and then we'll go from there. And if it was a justified homicide then what we'll do is we'll take it to grand jury, okay? Okay. Unless there's some extenuating circumstance that points to something else. But I don't know that right now. And I'm not gonna do anything behind y'all's backs, I'm gonna be up front and honest with you the whole way, okay?

Det. Greg Williams: Well just take a deep breath and know that in the end everything's gonna be okay. No matter what, everything's gonna eventually be okay. Alright? Alright?

Det. Greg Williams: You think your daughter is here?

Karen Conroy: Okay. She's friends with Danny.

Det. Greg Williams: Danny.

Karen Conroy: From the Sheriff's Department.

Det. Greg Williams: Arce? Yeah. Okay. Okay. Okay, yeah, he was telling me that he that he knows y'all.

Det. Greg Williams: Like I say, bad things happen to good people.

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Det. Greg Williams: I would honestly prefer that you hold off on that for a minute. Okay. But we'll get into a minute, okay? Okay. Thank you. Morris's godmother is Randy's girlfriend.



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WEAPON USED

Yildiz Sanayi Shotgun, Double barrel (over/under) – SN: 166738.

Assigned Trace ID T20230473825.

Department of Justice National Tracing Center states this gun was purchased on April 18, 2009, by Marty Hulett Brown, at Academy Sports & Outdoors #94 in Sherwood, Arkansas.

Per Lexis search, Marty Brown is an 86-year-old female living in Little Rock, Arkansas. The only phone number in the Lexis file for her is a non-working number.

INTERVIEW OF GEOFFREY CORN WHO PROVIDES LEGAL ARGUMENTS FOR WHY THIS CASE SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL

Geoffrey S. Corn, *George R. Killam Jr. Chair of Criminal Law; Director, Center for Military Law & Policy*

Email: gecorn@ttu.edu

Phone: (806) 834-5442

Geoffrey Corn is a criminal law professor and expert interviewed by Dolcefino Media for analysis of the events and insight into the case and applicable law. The following are key statements excerpted from this interview and may not be accurate transcriptions.

[00:00:46] Geoffrey Corn: The question for a defendant pleading self-defense is not whether he in fact had no choice, but whether he made a reasonable judgment under the circumstances... that he had no option other than to use deadly force to protect himself. The facts of you as you have explained them to me, I think, really undermine that assertion.

[00:01:24] Geoffrey Corn: With a dead victim who is physically frail, who is not belligerent from the testimony or the statement from the defendant's wife, who was not bearing a weapon, brandishing a weapon, verbally threatening the defendant, wasn't charging him, and actually lived or was residing in that house, so was ostensibly just going into the house... that factual situation is one I think most prosecutors would present to a jury to let them make the judgment of whether or not this use of force was excessive, or whether or not the defendant even believed he was acting in self-defense, as opposed to just being angry and maliciously killing someone

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[00:03:04] Geoffrey Corn: Prosecutors always use inconsistent statements by defendants to persuade a jury that the defendant is not being truthful. Defense lawyers will frequently be in a position where they have a client who does alter the story as time goes on, remembers things differently, or maybe was afraid of being fully forthcoming when they made the first statements, or maybe was not prompted by the first attorney to be more clear. This is why we have juries. Right?

[00:03:49] Geoffrey Corn: From what you've told me I find it difficult to understand why a prosecutor would drop a case like this after a grand jury is issued a true bill of indictment.

[00:04:16] Geoffrey Corn: Maybe a jury would say, you know, he honestly thought his life was in danger, but under the circumstances it wasn't reasonable, and they would compromise and convict him of manslaughter instead of murder. But to simply drop the case and deny the community, through the function of the jury, the opportunity to look at all this evidence and make the judgment for themselves is difficult to understand

[00:04:58] Geoffrey Corn: The family members of the deceased are justified in their skepticism about the legitimacy of this no-prosecution decision. And I think they're entitled to more of an explanation.

[00:07:10] Geoffrey Corn: I think with these facts, it is curious to say the least why a prosecutor would decide that this was not worthy of presenting to a jury.

[00:07:37] Geoffrey Corn: Manslaughter would be relevant here if under two circumstances: One, if the jury concluded he was not trying to kill him, he was trying to scare him and accidentally hit him. That doesn't appear to be consistent with any of the statements he made so far. The more likely scenario would be a jury concluding that he may have honestly believed his life was in jeopardy, but the belief was unreasonable under the circumstances.

[00:08:04] Geoffrey Corn: An honest and reasonable assumption of homicidal threat is a complete defense. It erases the word unlawful. But if your honest belief of self-defense necessity, you believe it, but a reasonable person would not have made that judgment, you essentially have made a reckless judgment, and therefore you're guilty of a reckless killing, which is what we call voluntary manslaughter. Some jurisdictions call it imperfect self-defense.

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[00:08:38] Geoffrey Corn: Perfect self-defense is an honest and reasonable conclusion of self-defense necessity. Imperfect self-defense is an honest but mistaken conclusion, that you had to act in self-defense, which I think is or could be pretty likely here: That the jury could say he thought he needed to kill the guy, but on the facts we've seen that was an unreasonable judgment.

[00:09:19] Geoffrey Corn: If the trial did not begin, if a jury was not impaneled, then he's never been in jeopardy for this crime under the doctrine of double jeopardy. Which means a prosecutor can change his mind, a new prosecutor could seek a new indictment, and bring it to a jury, and he wouldn't have a double jeopardy bar against that prosecution.

EFFORTS TO GATHER PUBLIC DOCUMENTS:

July 30, 2025 Public Information Request sent to Walker County District Clerk requesting the following:

1. A copy of the list of grand jurors for Case No. 2317778.

The District Clerk has refused to provide the requested information and the request has been sent to the Attorney General of Texas for a determination. Briefs can be provided upon request. Determination is still pending.

July 30, 2025 Public Information Request sent to Walker County Sheriff's Office requesting the following:

1. A copy of the incident report including all supplemental reports for:
 - a. Case No. 2503588
 - b. Case No. 2317778

In contradiction of an attorney general determination, the Walker County Sheriff's Office provided only basic information and a cover sheet. Briefs and production can be provided upon request.

August 1, 2025 Public Information Request sent to Walker County Sheriff's Office requesting the following:

1. All body cam footage of Deputy Sidney Blair (Unit 1854) responding to an incident at 54 Oak Ridge in Huntsville, TX on August 7, 2023, at approximately 21:00 involving James Pat Conroy.

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2. All body cam footage of Sergeant Bean responding to an incident at 54 Oak Ridge in Huntsville, TX on August 7, 2023, at approximately 21:00 involving James Pat Conroy.
3. All body cam footage of Deputy Malachi Frazier (Unit 2937) responding to an incident at 54 Oak Ridge in Huntsville, TX on August 7, 2023, at approximately 21:00 involving James Pat Conroy.
4. All body cam footage of Deputy Gregg Burks responding to an incident at 54 Oak Ridge in Huntsville, TX on August 7, 2023, at approximately 21:00 involving James Pat Conroy.
5. All body cam footage of Deputy Eric Scheiner responding to an incident at 54 Oak Ridge in Huntsville, TX on August 7, 2023, at approximately 21:00 involving James Pat Conroy.
6. All body cam footage of Deputy Curtis Green responding to an incident at 54 Oak Ridge in Huntsville, TX on August 7, 2023, at approximately 21:00 involving James Pat Conroy.
7. All body cam footage of Deputy Danny Arce at responding to an incident 54 Oak Ridge in Huntsville, TX on August 7, 2023, at approximately 21:00 involving James Pat Conroy.
8. All body cam footage of Deputy John Polkinghorn who responded to an incident at 54 Oak Ridge in Huntsville, TX on February 25, 2025, at approximately 20:30 involving James Pat Conroy.
9. All dash cam footage of Deputy Danny Arce responding to an incident at 54 Oak Ridge in Huntsville, TX on August 7, 2023, at approximately 21:00 involving James Pat Conroy.

On August 7, 2025, the Walker County Sheriff's Office informed Dolcefino Media that no responsive records exists.

August 14, 2025 Public Information Request sent to Walker County Sheriff's Office requesting the following:

1. All dash cam footage from any deputy responding to an incident at 54 Oak Ridge, Huntsville, Texas on August 7, 2023, at approximately 21:00 involving James Pat Conroy.

On November 19, 2025, the footage was mailed out to Dolcefino Media, as well as the previously-requested incident reports.

October 28, 2025 Public Information Request sent to Walker County Sheriff's Office requesting the following:

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1. All 911 phone call recordings from the incident involving a shooting at 54 Oak Ridge, Huntsville, Texas on August 7, 2023, at approximately 21:00.

On the same day, Dolcefino Media was informed that no responsive records exist.

November 3, 2025 Public Information Request sent to Walker County Public Safety Communications Center requesting the following:

1. All 911 phone call recordings from the incident involving a shooting at 54 Oak Ridge, Huntsville, Texas on August 7, 2023, at approximately 21:00.

On November 10, 2025, production was received by Dolcefino Media.

OTHER INVESTIGATIVE NOTES:

Campaign Finance Reports:

- Walker County District Attorney Will Durham.
- Walker County Sheriff Clint McRae.

Elkins Lake Connections:

Both DA Durham and Sheriff McRae live in the Elkins Lake subdivision. Nicholas Williford is a former resident of Elkins Lake (living in a home owned by his father Michael Williford.)

Phone Calls:

- Pat Conroy.
- Karen Conroy.
- Errol Stivender.
- Carolyn Stivender.
- Cassidy Conroy Williford.
- District Attorney Will Durham.
- Assistant District Attorney Malori Martin .
- Deputy Sidney Blair.
- Sgt. Tom Bean.
- Ken Lybrand.
- Randy Gardner.
- Mike Williford.

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- Leanne G. Woodward.
- Dana Shannon.
- Tim Shannon.
- Beth Malak (victims services) .
- J. Marcus Payne (Justice of the Peace).
- C. Bryan Cantrell.

Leanne G. Woodward (Grand Jury Foreman) Research:

- Husband, Walter Woodward.
- Walter is Chairman of the Board of Gibbs Brothers & Company.
- Gibbs Brothers is the oldest business under the same ownership in the same location as its founding (1841).
- Gibbs Brothers is involved in real estate, timber, mineral and investments (according to website).
- Owns mineral rights for 170,756.41 acres in several counties but primarily Walker County.

Lexis Reports:

- Hartsell Gray III.
- James Patrick Conroy.
- Karen Meleta Conroy.
- Cassidy Conroy.
- Nicholas Andrew Williford.
- Bruce Williford.
- John Williford.
- Carolyn Stivender.
- Errol Stivender.
- Randy Gardner.
- Mary Beth Nesmith.
- Leanne G. Woodward.
- Walter Woodward.
- William Durham.
- Malori Martin.
- C. Bryan Cantrell.
- Clint McRae.
- Greg Williams.

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The Truth is Worth Fighting For

- Sidney Blair.
- Kay Parker.
- Sybella Penland.
- Marty Hulett Brown.



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