

State v. Allan Pope

The defendant was the Highway Commissioner for Sullivan County, TN. The charges against him arose out of two projects in which the defendant used county resources for private purposes. Specifically, the defendant had county crews dig a water line ditch for one private property owner and make improvements on another tract of land for a real estate developer. On November 5, 2010, a jury convicted the defendant of theft of services over \$10,000, official misconduct, and using public equipment for private purposes.

State v. Mario Jones

On June 27, 2002, officers from the 10th Judicial District Drug Task Force and the Tennessee National Guard Counter-Drug Division were performing criminal interdiction on I-75. The officers observed the defendant following too closely behind another car on the interstate. When the defendant exited the interstate and pulled into the parking lot of a gas station, the officers initiated a traffic stop. While the defendant pumped gas and went into the store, the officers ran his information through a database. Finding that the defendant had a valid driver's license and no outstanding warrants, the officers issued a warning citation. After issuing the citation, the officers asked the defendant if they could search his car, and he consented. The officers found two aerosol style cans with false bottoms containing pills. The pills were later determined to be K4 Dilaudids.

State v. Khalid Bashir

On June 22, 2007, a Tennessee Highway Patrol Officer stopped the defendant for speeding on I-75. As the officer spoke to the defendant through the passenger side window, he smelled a strong odor of marijuana emanating from the vehicle. The officer issued a citation to the defendant and asked the defendant to step out of the vehicle to discuss and sign the citation. After issuing the citation, the officer asked for permission to search the vehicle. The defendant refused. The officer then informed the defendant that he had probable cause to conduct the search based on the marijuana smell. The officer placed the defendant in handcuffs and proceeded to search the vehicle. He recovered a backpack containing a large amount of marijuana, as well as cocaine, ecstasy pills, and two digital scales.

State v. Terry Bonds

On December 15, 2003, the defendant pled guilty to possession of cocaine with intent to sell and possession of a weapon. He was sentenced to six years probation. In September 2009, the court issued a capias for the defendant's arrest based on a new arrest. The new arrest was the result of an arson allegedly committed by the defendant. According to the State, the defendant and his girlfriend, Ms. Patterson, had argued, and when Ms. Patterson left her home, the defendant set it on fire. Ms. Patterson's two daughters were asleep in the home and awoke to the defendant yelling at them from outside the window. Although they did not see the defendant, they had seen him earlier that day and they recognized his voice. The trial court found by a preponderance of the evidence that the defendant had committed the arson, and placed the defendant's six-year sentence into effect.

State v. Beatriz Ochoa

On November 2, 2009, an officer with the 10th Judicial District Drug Task Force observed a vehicle commit several moving violations on I-75. The officer stopped the vehicle. The defendant was a passenger in the vehicle and was married to the driver. The officer issued a warning to the driver and asked for permission to search the vehicle. The driver agreed to the search. The officer discovered roughly 90 pounds of marijuana concealed in duffle bags in the trunk. Both the driver and the defendant were arrested. The defendant filed an application for pretrial diversion with the District Attorney General. Based on the circumstances surrounding the offense, the State refused to enter into a diversion agreement. The trial court found that the State did not abuse its discretion in making the determination.

State v. Tonya Thomas

On June 27, 2008, Jeffrey Poe stopped behind another vehicle occupied by the defendant and several other individuals at a red light. When he stopped, the defendant's brother exited the other vehicle and began yelling and screaming at Mr. Poe, ostensibly because he felt Mr. Poe almost crashed into them. Mr. Poe continued driving and pulled into a parking lot. The other vehicle also pulled into the parking lot and blocked the exit. Mr. Poe and the occupants of the other vehicle exited, and a confrontation ensued. During this confrontation, the defendant brandished a knife and threatened to "cut" Mr. Poe. The trial court found the defendant guilty of simple assault.

State v. Brandon Sutton

On the evening of January 27, 2007, the victim, the defendant, and several other individuals went to a bar together. On the way to the bar, they smoked marijuana and drank heavily. They continued drinking and doing drugs throughout the evening. When the bar closed, the group left. One of the individuals, Ms. Stout, was very intoxicated and became sick. The group decided to take Ms. Stout home. After they arrived at her house, several people left, leaving only the victim, the defendant, and Ms. Stout. The victim had passed out earlier and was sleeping on the couch. Ms. Stout went to bed, but awoke to the defendant holding a knife to her throat and asking her if she wanted to die with him. He told her that he had killed the victim. Ms. Stout told the defendant he should leave, and he did. The ensuing investigation and trial testimony revealed that the defendant had struck the victim several times in the head with an axe that was displayed on a wall in Ms. Stout's house. The defendant was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.