Triton Mock Trial

2025-26 Tryout Packet

If you are reading this, you have taken the first step to becoming a member of Triton Mock Trial! This packet will explain everything you need to know about the team, the tryout process, and what happens next. We thank you for your interest!

Good Luck!
Triton Mock Trial

Table of Contents

Welcome Letter

Dear prospective members,

We are so glad that you are interested in trying out for **Triton Mock Trial's 2025-26 season.** Mock trial gives you the opportunity to hone your public speaking skills and develop your ability to present, argue, and advocate—while traveling to other cities across the nation and making lifelong friends along the way. We would like to emphasize that **our program is open to everyone** and not meant to appeal only to those who have an interest in working in law. We have had numerous aspiring doctors, scientists, engineers, actors, writers, and other individuals from vastly different backgrounds and disciplines join and attain incredible success in our program.

Since Triton Mock Trial's conception nearly twenty years ago, we have competed at and won tournaments across the country at the highest levels of competition, including going to Nationals just last year! **We are looking for talented students who are ready and willing to carry on our legacy of success.** In this packet, you will find everything you need to prepare for your tryout.

Our Philosophy for Tryouts: We want each student trying out to have all the resources necessary to have the best tryout possible. We understand some of you have never done mock trial before. We also understand that many of you speak, think, and perform differently. That's why we have structured this process so that your best qualities can shine regardless of your circumstances.

Tryouts will be held on **Sat. 10/4, 10:30am-7:30pm at Conference Room 300 in Student Services Center and Sun. 10/5, 11am-6:30pm at Warren College Room in Price Center.** The signup form is linked in the "Instructions" portion of this packet. Additionally, we will be holding optional practice tryouts via Zoom on Thurs. 10/2, 10am-9pm and in-person on Fri. 10/3, 11am-8pm at Conference Room 300. For more information, please refer to the flyer below. If you have any questions or concerns about the tryout process, don't hesitate to email us at mocktrial.atucsd@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you!

Warmly,
Triton Mock Trial

MOCK TRIAL INFO

SESSIONS

Monday, 9/29

6-7pm via Zoom (Link Below)

We highly encourage you to attend the in-person session on Tuesday, but this option is available for those who can't make it. Zoom link: https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/3701898876?pwd=SXFWFCcBDbCIURoNQy4UFvuDbybE3p.1

Tuesday, 9/30

6-7pm in Price Center Bear Room

Joint info session with Moot Court!
We'll be hosting a fundraiser at Tapioca Express from 7-9pm after the info session--a great chance to meet our members, ask questions, and enjoy a 5% discount on your boba!

ATTENDING AT LEAST ONE SESSION IS MANDATORY TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE TEAM

COME TO TRITON MOCK TRIAL

PRACTICE TRYOUTS

VIA ZOOM 10/2

10AM - 9PM

LINK TO JOIN:

HTTPS://UCSD.ZOOM.US/J/3701898876?PWD=SXFWFCCBDBCIURONQY4UFVUDBYBE3P.1

IN-PERSON 10/3

11AM - 8PM

IN CONFERENCE ROOM 300
(STUDENT SERVICES CENTER)

DROP IN ANYTIME TO RUN YOUR MATERIAL & GET FEEDBACK!

Recruitment SCHEDULE

TABLING AT LIBRARY WALK

8AM-5PM on 9/24, 9/25, 9/30, & 10/2
Come say hi to our program members, introduce yourself, and ask questions!

INFOSESSIONS (VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON)

6-7PM on 9/29 via Zoom & **9/30** in-person at Bear Room in Price Center. Attending at least one session is MANDATORY to be considered for the team.

TAPIOCA EXPRESS FUNDRAISER

7-9PM on 9/30 after our in-person infosession. Come hang out with our members and get 5% off your boba!

PRACTICE TRYOUTS

10AM-9PM on 10/2 via Zoom and **11AM-8PM on 10/3** in-person at Conference Room 300 in Student Services Center. Drop in anytime to get feedback on your material for tryouts.

2025-26 TEAM TRYOUTS

10/4 at Conference Room 300 at and **10/5** at Warren College Room in Price Center**.** Fill out the application AND sign up for a Calendly slot on the page below. Dress professionally!

Instructions:

- Fill out the application form here: https://forms.gle/9jw44niASe2PTGnH9

- AND sign up here: https://calendly.com/elw006-ucsd/tmt-2025-26-tryout
  - Each day of tryouts will be held in a different location!
    - Saturday: Conference Room 300 at Student Services Center
    - Sunday: Warren College Room at Price Center
  - If for any reason you need to cancel or rebook your tryout, PLEASE CANCEL YOUR APPOINTMENT ON THE CALENDLY AND EMAIL US!
  - In-person practice tryouts are in Conference Room 300 at Student Services Center from 11am-8pm.

- You may try out as both an attorney and a witness. Trying out as a witness is mandatory. Trying out as an attorney is optional. *Please dress professionally for your tryout.*

- There are 3-4 parts to tryouts! Each will be explained further in this packet. You may choose the order of your presentation during your tryout.
  - Character witness
  - Expert witness
  - *Attorney tryout*
  - Mock debate

The Mock Debate is REQUIRED.

Instructions:
This mock debate is meant to showcase your ability to think on your feet and present an organized argument. You may use notes for this portion if you would like!

- You will be given 10 seconds to prepare for your initial argument, which cannot exceed a minute in length.
- After you make your initial argument, you will be asked a rebuttal question. Your response cannot exceed 30 seconds.
- Note: The best mock debates will demonstrate strong argumentation skills, an alacrity of wit, and coherent organization of your thoughts and subsequent argument.

Topics:
You will be given one prompt out of the following to argue during the debate. You may take any stance you wish.

1. Would cats or dogs make better salespeople?
2. Is it better to be feared or loved?
3. Which cereal mascot would be most successful in running for political office?

Trying out as a witness is REQUIRED.

Guidelines:

- You must demonstrate your ability to learn an affidavit or expert report, create a character, and deliver well-articulated answers to questions for a brief direct examination.

- You will be playing **TWO** witnesses from this year's case: one **expert** and one **character**. Memorize the information and respond concisely, thoroughly, and confidently. Note: Both of these witnesses are on the prosecution side (your testimony should help a jury find Charlie Martin guilty).
  - For the **character witness**, develop a character that is authentic and engaging. In the past, successful witnesses have used a variety of accents, costumes, and backstories.
  - For the **expert**, you need to have a thorough understanding of the facts and be able to demonstrate that you are qualified and credible. However, do not be boring; give your expert some personality! We are looking for witnesses who can be both informative and engaging.

- You will be asked open-ended questions for a direct examination, which are included below your affidavit/report. You should have the answers to these questions memorized ahead of time. Usage of notes is strongly discouraged.

- **TIP: BE ENTERTAINING!**
  - We love seeing lively, vibrant characters like adorable grandmothers, sassy nail techs, washed-up celebrities, and even crazed former circus clowns that now make barbecue sauce for a living. But feel free to also just be yourself! What matters most is your likability and believability.
  - The best experts distill complex science into entertaining and digestible metaphors, analogies, and examples. Balance credibility with personality; it's your job to ensure the jury doesn't fall asleep while also believing you're the real deal.

Understanding the Direct Examination

What is a direct examination?
Direct examination refers to the set of questions that the attorney on your side of the case will be asking you (the witness). These questions are open-ended and are meant to elicit facts to support the side of the case you're on. You are the star, and the attorney merely guides you as you tell your story.

How do I perform one?
The direct examination is your chance to establish your character while also building credibility. We want you to transform the witness's fact pattern into an engaging and believable narrative. This means knowing when to throw in a joke or some extra facts nobody asked for and when to keep it to the point.

How do I write one?
You will only be responsible for writing the answers to the questions. We have provided you with the questions, and it is your job to fill in the blanks. Ground your responses in the facts contained in your affidavit, but don't just repeat them verbatim. Your answers should be no longer than a few sentences.

Note: The expert witness report and the character witness affidavit are located toward the end of this packet in the "Case Materials" section. The direct examination questions for each of the two witnesses are written at the bottom of the respective witness statements.

Trying out as an attorney is OPTIONAL.

Guidelines:

- To be considered for an attorney role, you will prepare a 2-3 minute speech.
  - You have been provided with case materials, evidence, and relevant laws with which you will write an opening statement **defending or prosecuting Charlie Martin**.
  - You should use the evidence from the case and testimony from witnesses (the report/affidavit in the "Evidence" section of the packet) as needed to build your speech . Your speech should help orient the jury in your side of the case and your story of what happened.
  - Your statement **must not exceed 3 minutes.**

- This statement is an opportunity to **demonstrate your skills in argumentation, public speaking, and persuasion.** The ideal statement is delivered with poise, passion, *and without notes*. That being said, we don't expect a trial-ready, award-winning opening statement or a spectacular knowledge of law and the legal system. This may appear intimidating, but don't worry: we've all been there before!
  - TIP: We will look to see that you put in the effort/have a prepared speech but also at the presence you have when giving your speech. When we say presence, we mean how you hold yourself: what you sound like, your cadence, the variation in your tone, pauses, movements, hand gestures, eye contact, and confidence (how comfortable you are). Remember, you want to seem sure of yourself and believable!
  - Also, keep in mind that jury members come from all different walks of life, so the best openings are ones that provide a story that anyone and everyone can understand.

Understanding the Opening Statement

What is an opening statement?
The opening statement is the speech that the attorneys give at the beginning of a trial. This is your chance to present your side of the case to the members of the jury. Because this is the first time the jury will be hearing anything about the case at hand, it is important to give a clear and concise speech that introduces key people and events in a way that provides a mental road map for the side of the case you will be presenting while maintaining the interest of the jury. An opening statement utilizes the fact pattern of the case, public speaking skills, and knowledge of the law to provide the most compelling version of why the jury should rule in your favor.

How do I write one?
We have included an outline of a typical opening statement that is used in mock trial. We labeled each part with what it is and what to write for that section. However, we expect you to fill in the blanks. Show us how you think.

Sample Outline

I. What happened?
a. Tell us about the story of events concerning the trial
b. We want to know who, what, when, where, and why

II. Why are we here?
a. Tie the story back to the law. How does the story you just described explain why someone is on trial?

III. How will you prove your case?
a. Explain the burden of proof. For criminal cases, this will be beyond a reasonable doubt
b. Define this technical term for the jury
c. Tell us how the facts of this case will help you meet your burden

IV. Conclusion
a. Explain why your case will ultimately be the one to rule in favor of

Case Materials

The Facts

Charlie Martin was indicted for criminal homicide for causing the death of fellow contestant Rob Armstrong during the filming of reality TV show *The Saboteurs*. Charlie Martin was seen tampering with Mr. Armstrong's diving mask prior to a challenge on the show. **According to Mr. Armstrong's autopsy, his official cause of death is asphyxia resulting from drowning.** Toxicology results revealed that Mr. Armstrong inhaled oxalic acid shortly before diving with his respirator mask. Oxalic acid poisoning is known to lead to hypoxia, which can cause disorientation and/or drowning.

Mr. Armstrong passed away during the filming of an episode challenge in which Contestants were required to swim to the bottom of a 25 to 30-foot-deep lagoon, untying five metal rings from weighted anchors. Each contestant had a diving mask and small regulator tank with 30 minutes of air.

Charlie Martin has entered a plea of "not guilty" and the matter is scheduled for a jury trial in the Charlotte County District Court.

The Indictment

On or about April 6, 2025, in Charlotte County, Midlands, Charlie Martin (1) did purposefully or knowingly cause the death of Rob Armstrong, or (2) acted recklessly under circumstances which manifested an extreme indifference to the value of human life, which constitutes the offense of MURDER, a Felony of the First Degree, in violation of Midlands Penal Code 18-303, and against the peace and dignity of the State of Midlands.

Relevant Laws

Midlands Penal Code §18-303 Murder:
(A) Criminal homicide constitutes murder when:
1. it is committed purposefully or knowingly; or
2. it is committed recklessly under circumstances manifesting extreme indifference to the value of human life.
(B) Murder is a felony of the first degree.

Midlands Penal Code §18-102 "Purposefully" Defined:
(A) A person acts purposefully with respect to a material element of an offense when: (i) if the element involves the nature of that person's conduct or the attendant circumstances, it is that person's conscious objective to engage in conduct of that nature or to cause such a result; and (ii) if the element involves a result of that person's conduct, that person is aware of the existence of such circumstances or that person believes or hopes they exist.

Midlands Penal Code §18-103 "Knowingly" Defined:
(A) A person acts knowingly with respect to a material element of an offense when: (i) if the element involves the nature of that person's conduct or the attendant circumstances, the person is aware that their conduct is of that nature or that such circumstances exist; and (ii) if the element involves a result of that person's conduct, the person is aware that it is practically certain that his conduct will cause such a result.

Midlands Penal Code §18-104 "Recklessly" Defined:
(A) A person acts recklessly with respect to a material element of an offense when that person consciously disregards a substantial and unjustifiable risk that the material element exists or will result from that person's conduct. The risk must be of such a nature and degree that, considering the nature and purpose of the actor's conduct and the known circumstances, its disregard involves a gross deviation from the standard of conduct that a law-abiding person would observe in the actor's situation.

The Evidence

The following pages contain exhibits from the case that you will use to understand the facts, write your opening statement, and develop your witnesses.

THE SABOTEUR

PITCH DECK

Concept: 20 Strangers (called “Patrons”) meet in a mysterious location. Each season, the location of the meeting will shift. It could be a mansion, it could be a train, it could be a hidden resort. Picture the game of Clue meets Mafia meets White Lotus.

The goal is simple: survival.
Among the 20 Patrons are a group of 3 “Saboteurs” armed with special knowledge from production. These Saboteurs have the opportunity to target the innocent Patrons (called “Nobles”). There are two ways to be “murdered” (or eliminated) in this show: one is to fail a challenge, the other is to be voted off by your fellow patrons. The Saboteurs only have an advantage in the challenge segment of the game: they are given insider information on how to sabotage one player. The game is played down to a final five challenge where one Patron will be eliminated and then there will be a final vote where the last patron can be eliminated. This will leave a final 3. If any Saboteurs are in the final 3, they split the money among themselves. If the final 3 are all “Nobles” they split the money. This means if 1 Saboteur is at the end with 2 Nobles, that 1 Saboteur gets all the money. Additional rule: In the event the show ends before the winners are crowned, all remaining players will equally split the prize pool regardless of player status.

EXHIBIT
1

SELCOV STUDIOS

FOOTAGE REVIEW OF UNDERWATER DIVE OF CHALLENGE

CASE NO.: 2025-0471

DECEDENT: Rob Armstrong, Male, 34 years old

EXHIBIT 5

Notes by: Atlas Hartley, Chief Medical Examiner, Charlotte County

Footage Review Notes:

00:00–03:00: Subject enters the water. He is breathing heavily from running and prior challenge exertion. He places his dive mask on and takes a test breath. Then immediately pulls it off and coughs for about 10 seconds. Then he replaces his mask, adjusts it and the oxygen regulator, and begins descent into the lagoon. Exhale bubbles from the regulator appear at regular intervals.

03:00–04:30: Subject performs strongly during the first three anchors. His swim pace is consistent with deliberate, strong strokes, and no hesitation in navigation.

04:30–05:30: As Subject begins swimming toward the fourth anchor, his pace slows noticeably. His arm movements become less fluid, and his kick rate decreases. He fumbles, pauses twice, and makes no progress on the ring for nearly 45 seconds. His breathing pattern, visible via small bursts of air from his regulator, becomes erratic.

08:00–10:00: Subject leaves the fourth anchor without untying the ring. He swims upward about five feet, then stops abruptly, floating mid-water, moving his head around as if unsure where to go next. He begins descending again. He appears disoriented—his movements no longer purposeful.

10:00–12:00: Subject drifts between the fourth and fifth anchor. He makes two attempts to swim upward but turns back both times. Close-up camera shots show his eyes are wide and unfocused through the mask. His body begins to tilt sideways during movement, a classic sign of underwater disorientation.

12:00–14:30: Subject suddenly tries to ascend rapidly, expelling a large burst of bubbles. Halfway up, he stops and descends again erratically. He begins tugging at his mask and regulator and shaking his head back and forth.

14:30–15:00: Subject yanks off his mask completely. Within seconds, he inhales a mouthful of water and begins convulsing. His limbs flail in short, uncoordinated bursts. He attempts to swim upward but cannot maintain direction. His eyes flutter closed.

15:30–16:00: Emergency protocol is initiated.

INTERVIEW WITH CHARLIE MARTIN

EXHIBIT 7

DATE: 06/02/2025

TIME: 9:30 AM

OFFICER: This is Detective Jai Dixon with the Charlotte County Sheriff's Department. I am here with Charlie Martin. It's June 2, 2025, and we are here at the Charlotte County Sheriff's Department for an interview.

OFFICER: What's your full name?

MARTIN: Charlie Deni Martin.

OFFICER: Why were you on the beach at Hotel Lux?

MARTIN: I was there for a challenge as part of a TV show called *The Saboteurs*.

OFFICER: Okay, Charlie, we appreciate your cooperation in talking with us.

MARTIN: If I can be of any help in bringing this show to justice for what they have done, I am ready.

OFFICER: What do you mean by bringing the show to justice? Are you saying the show is responsible for Rob's death?

MARTIN: Talk to any contestant. Talk to the staff. Let them tell you the conditions we live under, the lack of sleep, the manipulation we are put through in order to make TV. And they do all of this and then encourage us to win at all costs under extreme circumstances.

OFFICER: So, just so we are clear here. You believe that Rob Armstrong died due to the actions of production in making a dangerous challenge? The strongest player in the history of the game could not handle it because he was stressed?

MARTIN: Yes. I know everyone thinks Rob is some God-like figure, but he's just human like the rest of us. Clearly.

OFFICER: Well, let's talk about the poison then. The poison you had in your room. The wood bleach?

MARTIN: I had wood bleach in my room, yes. I spilled some red wine on the hardwood floors, and we were not supposed to be drinking, so I asked production for bleach to clean my spill.

OFFICER: The bottle says "Oxalic Acid" on it. This same acid you used to "clean your floors" was found in Armstrong's blood.

MARTIN: Look, I wasn't trying to hurt anyone. I did not think it would be enough to be in his blood. I had it in my backpack when I went down to the challenge. We each had our equipment in different colors. I thought the stuff smelled bad, so if I put it in Rob's mask, he would rip it off immediately and then not be able to do the challenge.

OFFICER: You want us to believe you put it there, not intending him to breathe it in?
MARTIN: Yes, of course! I admit I put it in the mask. But I never thought he would keep the mask on or try to do the challenge. I never intended for it to go that far.
OFFICER: Then why did you add extra weights to the backpack that he had to carry for the obstacle course section before the diving portion?
MARTIN: Because I wanted to win. I make no apologies for wanting to win a game after it was stolen from me. Riley Kaye, the producer, told me I could. Those are the game rules. Rob had no problem using those same rules to humiliate and mock me for years.
OFFICER: You've seen the footage of him underwater, right?
MARTIN: Yes.
OFFICER: Explain to me why he was ripping off his face mask.
MARTIN: Maybe he panicked. Maybe the stuff I put in his mask started to affect him. But that is not my fault. I had no way of knowing he would stay underwater that long or keep his mask off if he was choking.
OFFICER: You expect us to believe you stopped at just a little powder in his face mask?
MARTIN: What do you want me to say here? Talk to Kaye. Talk to anyone in production about what it is like to do one of these shows. Those producers, Kaye as much as anyone, will throw you to the wolves if they think it will increase their ratings.
OFFICER: I did not ask you if Kaye knew. I asked if you did it. I want an answer.
MARTIN: And I want a lawyer.

[END OF RECORDING]

EXHIBIT

11

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EXHIBIT

13

Oxalic Acid

WARNING

Harmful if swallowed

Causes severe skin burns and eye damage

May cause respiratory irritation

Wear protective gloves/protective clothing/eye protection/face protection.

IF SWALLOWED: Immediately call a POISON CENTER or doctor/physician.

EXHIBIT

14

MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET (MSDS)
Oxalic Acid
Midlands Product Safety Commission

Substance Name: Oxalic Acid ($C_2H_2O_4$)
CAS Number: 144-62-7

1. HAZARD IDENTIFICATION

Emergency Overview:
Colorless, crystalline solid or white powder. Toxic by inhalation, ingestion, or skin absorption. Strong irritant 9 to tissue. May cause systemic toxicity including kidney and nervous system damage.

2. HEALTH HAZARD INFORMATION

Inhalation

- Hazard: Severe respiratory irritant.
- Symptoms: Coughing, shortness of breath, burning sensation in the throat, pulmonary edema in severe cases.
- Chronic exposure: May result in damage to lungs, kidneys, and nervous system.

Ingestion

- Hazard: Highly toxic if swallowed.
- Symptoms: Burning pain in mouth/throat, vomiting, abdominal pain, muscle cramps, shock.
- Potential effects: Hypocalcemia, kidney failure due to calcium oxalate crystal formation, possibly fatal.

Skin Contact

- Hazard: Toxic and corrosive.
- Symptoms: Redness, pain, burns, and possible systemic absorption leading to hypocalcemia and renal injury.
- Prolonged contact: Can result in ulceration or delayed healing.

3. FIRST AID MEASURES

- *Inhalation:* Move to fresh air. Administer oxygen if breathing is difficult. Seek immediate medical attention.
- *Ingestion:* Do not induce vomiting. Rinse mouth. Give calcium-rich milk or calcium gluconate solution if conscious. Seek emergency help.
- *Skin Contact:* Immediately wash with soap and water for at least 15 minutes. Remove contaminated clothing. Get medical attention.

4. HANDLING & STORAGE

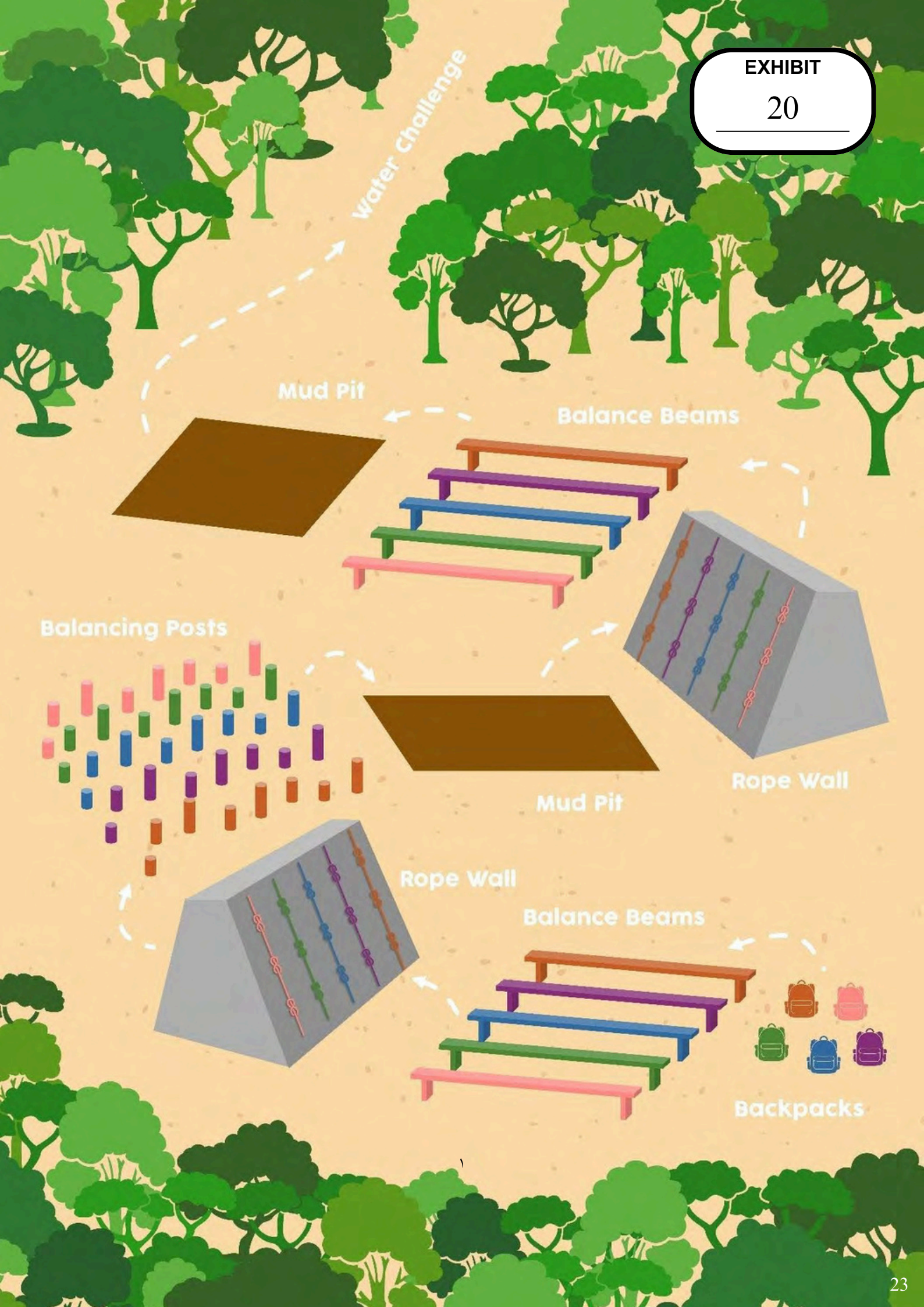
Store in a cool, dry, well-ventilated area away from incompatible substances (e.g., bases, oxidizers). Use protective gloves, goggles, and a lab coat. Use fume hood when handling powder or solutions. Avoid creating dust or aerosol.

5. DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS

Neutralize with calcium carbonate or lime to form insoluble calcium oxalate before disposal. Collect in properly labeled containers.
Dispose of according to local, state, and federal environmental regulations (e.g., through a licensed hazardous waste contractor). Do not dispose of it via regular trash or down the drain.

⚠ DANGER: Use extreme caution when handling. Always wear proper PPE and work in a ventilated space. For Emergency Spill or Exposure: Contact your institutional safety officer or emergency response team immediately.

EXHIBIT
20


Water Challenge
Mud Pit
Balance Beams
Balancing Posts
Rope Wall
Mud Pit
Rope Wall
Balance Beams
Backpacks

CHARLOTTE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE
Medical Examiner's Report by Atlas Hartley

CASE NO.: 2025-0471
DECEDENT: Rob Armstrong, Male, 34 years old
DATE OF AUTOPSY: April 8, 2025
PERFORMED BY: Atlas Hartley, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner
LOCATION: Charlotte County Forensic Facility

Background

I have been the Charlotte County Chief Medical Examiner for the past 5 years. My relevant work experience and training include a B.S. in Archaeology & Forensic Sciences from the University of Central Florida and an M.D. from the University of South Florida. After graduation, I did a fellowship in forensic pathology and my residency in anatomic and clinical pathology. Before I became a medical examiner, I was a forensic pathologist for 12 years. I'm a qualified expert in forensic pathology and toxicology in Florida, Georgia, Midlands, and Federal District Courts (I've testified in 60 cases and provided reports in 125). I'm also a certified medicolegal death investigator and divemaster.

My understanding is that this case involved the death of a contestant on a reality show called *The Saboteurs* that was filming at Hotel Lux. Because the death involved a major media company, Governor Sullivan called and asked that I personally conduct the autopsy and potential cause of death determination.

The remains of Rob Armstrong were delivered to the Coroner's Office in Santa Ivo on the morning of April 8, 2025. I recorded all relevant conditions of the body in the autopsy. The autopsy was conducted using the standard techniques set forth by the National Association of Medical Examiners, which is extensively peer-reviewed and the gold standard. I also performed all of the toxicological analyses discussed below using standard, peer-reviewed, and gold standard techniques. I have used all of the techniques listed below during the entirety of my career and applied all of them in the same standard manner as I always have.

On Scene Findings and Observations

I arrived at the scene of the death, Hotel Lux, at around 2:15pm, approximately two hours after emergency services had been called to the scene for a reported accidental drowning. The subject was lying on the beach in a supine position about 150 yards from the water's edge. The subject appeared to be male and was dressed in swim trunks and had a small respirator mask lying near the head. The subject's face also had markings that lined up with the edges of the mask, suggesting that the mask had been on the subject's face for some time before the death. This was confirmed for me by Riley Kaye, who gave me information about the moments leading up to the death.

Riley Kaye informed me that the subject had been competing in a multi-phase challenge that included diving into water while wearing a respirator mask. During the dive portion of the challenge, something went wrong a short while after the dive began, and the subject appeared to struggle underwater. Then the subject pulled the respirator off his face while underwater and started swimming frantically. He was eventually pulled out of the water by the on-scene rescue divers, but Kaye was vague as to how long it took the divers to reach him. The time he was pulled out of the water was 12:12 pm. When he was pulled out of the water, he was unconscious, and they attempted CPR for 27 minutes without success. On-scene medical staff called the time of death at 12:39 pm. Mr. Armstrong's body was then transported, securely, to the Charlotte County Forensic Facility for further examination.

Medical History

The subject's medical history revealed little of note. I reviewed the extensive medical records provided to me by the show's producers. The medical records indicated that the subject was a male aged 34 years old with no known medical conditions except for a documented mild allergy to cats, which presented as allergic rhinitis ("Hay Fever"). I confirmed these findings with the subject's personal physician. The pre-testing done by the TV show also indicated that the subject was in excellent athletic condition and overall health.

Internal Examination

First, I examined the subject's mouth. There appeared to be additional abrasions inside the mouth. These, too, appeared to be consistent with chemical burns like I had seen on the outside of the mouth and face. I also noted minimal signs of allergic rhinitis, including slightly inflamed sinuses and a small amount of mucus in the nasal passages.

There were also signs of irritation and inflammation that you would not see in a simple drowning case. The trachea and bronchi were irritated, consistent with the inhalation of a chemical irritant—they appeared mildly red and as if they were raw. Most medical examiners would not have seen these subtle signs of irritation, but I have an extensive background in medical examinations related to many types of poisonings, including inhalation of foreign substances.

The kidneys appeared grossly normal upon preliminary inspection. However, I noticed a slight pallor of the cortical tissue. This type of change can result from acute metabolic disturbance. Because of the appearance of metabolic disturbances in the kidneys and the other signs of chemical exposure, I took additional tissue samples from the kidneys for examination in the pathology lab. I also took the standard tissue samples from all other organs.

Toxicological Analyses

Using the tissue samples I took from the kidneys, I performed a histological analysis, which involves slicing the tissue samples into thin sections, mounting them on slides, and staining them with hematoxylin (H&E). From that, I did not find anything of note. However, I had a gut feeling that there was something there. So, I then reviewed a fresh tissue sample from the kidneys using polarized light microscopy.

There were signs of calcium oxalate crystal formation in the tissue samples. Calcium oxalate crystals typically form in fan- or rosette-shaped formations. Some small crystals had formed throughout the kidney samples. I reviewed 10 kidney tissue samples to confirm that there were calcium oxalate crystals throughout both kidneys.

Calcium oxalate crystals in and of themselves are not necessarily reason to suspect poisoning, as calcium oxalate crystals are the most common form of kidney stones. However, the proliferation of the crystal formation indicates that this was not an instance where the subject was in the early stages of kidney stone formation but instead was consistent with the introduction of a substance that would cause such crystalline formations. A few different chemicals can cause formation of such crystals, including ethylene glycol, oxalic acid, certain medications, and certain underlying medical conditions.

I then ran tests for oxalic acid on the rest of the tissue samples taken from the subject. The highest concentrations of oxalic acid were in the subject's mouth, trachea, and bronchi. All levels in these areas were well outside of the acceptable range of oxalic acid in the body tissue.

Discussion and Conclusions

Based on the autopsy and all of the toxicological tests that I ran and my extensive experience with determining cause of death in poisonings, my conclusion is that the subject inhaled a significant amount of oxalic acid shortly before entering the water for his dive.

The high concentration of oxalic acid in the pulmonary vasculature shows, to a high degree of scientific certainty, that oxalic acid was inhaled in powder form. No oxalic acid was found in the stomach contents or the esophagus, which, therefore, indicates that the only possible manner of ingestion was inhalation. Further, the chemical burns and irritation observed in the mouth and pulmonary system are also consistent with inhalation as the manner of ingestion. Based on the levels observed in the blood, the physical signs of inhalation, and the gender, weight, and build of the subject, I would estimate that he ingested between 1 and 1.75 grams of oxalic acid.

I can also conclude to a reasonable degree of scientific certainty that the inhalation of the oxalic acid was shortly before or at the time of the beginning of the subject's dive.

After inhaling between 1-1.75 grams of oxalic acid, a person of this gender, weight, and physical stature would experience the following symptoms at each corresponding interval:

Time Post-Exposure	**Symptoms**
10-30 seconds	Mild burning in throat, mild coughing
1-2 minutes	Onset of dizziness, dyspnea (shortness of breath), continued burning at ingestion site
4-6 minutes	Muscle weakness, early signs of hypoxia (visual disturbances and confusion)
10-15 minutes	Moderate signs of hypoxia (bluish tint to nails and eventually skin, tunnel vision, and disorientation)
20+ minutes	Advanced signs of hypoxia (poor coordination, slurred speech, coma, and death)

I did a review of the dive footage and made notes (Exhibit 5) about the subject's appearance and when he began showing signs of struggle. At approximately 5 minutes into the challenge, the subject began swimming much more slowly than he had in the prior few minutes or for his athletic level. During the 8-12 minute mark, he started showing signs of disorientation, including appearing like he was not able to figure out where to move or where to go. Then, around the 15-minute mark, he started showing signs of panic, including removing his mask and inhaling water.

All of the observable symptoms during the dive, as well as the physical condition of the body during autopsy, support a finding that the oxalic acid was inhaled within 10 seconds to 1 minute before the dive began.

Overall, my conclusion as to the cause of death is drowning induced by oxalic acid poisoning. While the ultimate cause of death was asphyxiation through drowning, the medical evidence shows that the hypoxia and resulting panic felt by the subject were caused by inhalation of oxalic acid moments before the dive occurred. The physical fitness of the subject and their lack of underlying medical conditions render it severely unlikely that the resulting hypoxia and drowning would have occurred absent the ingestion of oxalic acid.

/s/Atlas Hartley
Atlas Hartley, M.D.

April 9, 2025
Date

Expert Direct Questions

1. What do you do for a living?
2. Why are you in court with us today?
3. What is your educational background?
4. Did you review any materials today?
5. Did you find any abnormalities during the autopsy?
6. What did you conclude in today's case?

AFFIDAVIT OF NEL DOOS

After being duly sworn upon oath, Nel Doos hereby states as follows: I am over 18 and competent to make this affidavit.

My name is Nel Doos. Do not call me "Nelly." Yes, I am the sibling of the famous social media influencer, but we haven't been on speaking terms for years. My sibling thinks that they are the only person in our family who is worthy enough of being Midlands' number one celebrity. I'm going to become famous by being a reality TV star! I appeared on multiple different reality shows, "Alternate Juror," and a dating show, "Perpetuity House," neither of which was my big break. Although I'm pretty sure my antics in the dating show helped land my big gig: Season 8 of *The Saboteurs*.

The Saboteurs is sort of like the game of Clue, but where players team up to "murder" everyone else in the house. Every couple of days, there's an elimination challenge, and for the poor soul who comes in last—goodbye. All of the competitors are referred to as "Patrons." To make matters worse, there are a number of "Saboteurs," whose job is to cause friction in the hotel and even make things much harder for the other non-Saboteur guests (called "Nobles") to complete their challenges. But none of the Patrons, except the Saboteurs themselves, know who the Saboteurs are. If the other guests learned who a Saboteur was, they would vote them out of the competition or, as it's called on the show, "murder" them. So, the Nobles spend the season completing challenges but also trying to "out" the Saboteurs. When there are only a few Patrons left, the game ends, and the remaining Nobles split one million dollars. If any of the Saboteurs remain, the Saboteurs who are left get all the prize money.

Ever since I saw Episode 10 of Season 2 of The Saboteurs, I knew I had to be on the show. As every fan knows, that was the famous episode where Rob Armstrong betrayed Charlie Martin at the very end, getting Charlie "murdered" in the process. They were both saboteurs. At the very last moment, just when Charlie thought Charlie was going to win, Rob sold Charlie out. It probably would have gone mostly under the radar, but scenes of Charlie crying became memes all across the internet. Over the next couple of years, Rob got daytime TV interviews and some small endorsement deals. I ended up meeting Charlie years later—and Charlie told me how brutal the experience was. "They even attacked my mom," Charlie told me. At the time, I was pretty sure Charlie blamed Rob, the production company behind The Saboteurs, and probably the whole internet for the heart attack Charlie's mom had. She eventually recovered, but I know it was traumatic for Charlie.

I was on Season 8 of *The Saboteurs.* I was so close to winning the million dollars. I made it to the final four but was "murdered" by the three remaining Nobles in the final vote of the show. Yes—I was a Saboteur, and, yes, I loved it. The rules say that we can only do a sabotage approved by our producer, Riley Kaye, but in reality, we often get away with improvising a little extra. I was upset about being so close to the prize and losing. Nothing was ever proven, but I will forever blame Riley for tipping off the Nobles that I was the final Saboteur. I was so angry that a couple of weeks after the competition ended, I sent Riley a couple of anonymous texts saying: "Wait until the Feds learn about how you rig the show." But that's all in the past.

When we finally got the final details about Season 10, I learned that we would be back in Midlands at this isolated hotel along the waterfront. I arrived at the hotel on the morning of March 1, 2025. "Hotel" is more of an understatement. This was really a castle on the lake, complete with towers and secret rooms. As usual, the show was going to be for ten episodes, so they were going to film through early April.

Season 10 was the All-Star season, and I know that Episode 1 was going to be called “Welcome Back Old Foes and New Nobles.” I'd have to say that there was a strong emphasis on “welcome back old foes.” Lennox Reynolds—the hotel caretaker—escorted me downstairs when it was dinnertime. I asked Lennox what to expect, and Lennox told me that they couldn't let me in on what was in store for us, but also said, “I've been told that this season will have lots of surprises. Indigo Quade, the new host, told me that the Saboteurs would even be allowed to break some of the written and unwritten rules.” Lennox stopped for a minute on the stairs, picked up Strawberry the cat, who was also resting on the stairs, and said, “What are you doing here? You know, you're supposed to be in the tower area for the duration of the show.” Lennox turned to me and explained that one of the Patrons was highly allergic to cats, and they were told to quarantine Strawberry for the next month.

We arrived in the main dining hall, and I immediately recognized many of the other guests from previous seasons. We were assigned seats at the long dinner table, and, wouldn't you know it, Rob Armstrong and Charlie Martin were seated right across from each other. I guess Riley Kaye and Indigo Quade wanted to get an early start on the TV-worthy festivities. When Rob wasn't looking, I saw Charlie glaring at Rob pretty intensely. At the very end of the meal, Charlie banged Charlie's hands on the table, smirked, and said, “This time I'm going to murder you.” Charlie looked pretty intense when Charlie said this. The whole room stopped and looked at Charlie and Rob. Then a competitor cracked a joke about how they were already playing it big for the cameras. And I couldn't hear it exactly, because I was at the other end of the table, but I'm pretty sure that Charlie said, “I'll get you... for real, this time.”

Because we had been told to expect an early morning, we all headed to our rooms. At around 11:30pm, Reynolds knocked on my door and told me to head into the hotel library. I walked, and I immediately knew that it was the secret room for The Saboteurs. Kaye was already in there with Charlie Martin. I heard the words “you will get him” and “matter of time.” But when they heard me enter, they stopped their whispering and both gave me a knowing smirk. A few minutes later, Santiago Larson and Indigo walked in. “Sit down,” Riley said, “you three are going to be our All-Star Saboteurs.” Then Indigo said, “This season is going to be a little different. This is against the official rules, so make sure not to mention this to anyone. We are going to let you improvise some of your own sabotages this season. It's really important that our ratings are up.” Riley nodded in agreement. Indigo then said, “I'll have to excuse myself now, but Riley wants to have a few final words with you about tomorrow's challenge.”

After Indigo left the room, Riley said, “It's also very important—and I want you all, Charlie especially, to hear me on this—that Rob and you, Charlie, last at least until Episode 4. If this happens, I will make sure that you each get $50,000 bonus dollars under the table.” Charlie gave a big smile, spoke up first, and said, “Of course. I'll do anything for money.” We all ended up agreeing to Riley's offer, and we were told how the challenges would play out.

The next morning, we were brought outside to play the game. “Who's Hungry?” where a wheel determined if we had to eat delicious or...not so delicious food. Larson finished last and got eliminated, leaving just Charlie and me as Saboteurs.

The next challenge was a race through a maze with mini challenges. Charlie got to choose this sabotage, and, sure enough, wanted to target Rob Armstrong. Charlie started suggesting things like drugging Rob’s bottle with sleeping pills, which were really out of bounds. In the end, we decided on making Rob’s obstacle course more complicated—but Rob ended up finishing faster than anyone and won. Rob then ran right up to Charlie and said, “You were the joke of Season 2, and after this season, you'll be the joke of The Saboteurs for years to come.”

Later that day, Rob came up to me and wanted to make an alliance and "murder" Charlie after the next challenge. I pretended to agree and immediately spoke to Charlie about Rob's plan. Charlie totally freaked out—started cursing and ranting, saying something like "I can't put mom through this again." Because Charlie seemed so upset, I reassured them that it was different this time. We have the power. At that moment, Charlie said, "You're right," and then walked off. It looked like Charlie might have pulled out a cell phone, which was crazy because all of ours were taken away.

2 hours later, I ran into Charlie having what looked like a secret conversation. Charlie 101 turned to me and said, "Don't worry. I have a plan. All I need to do is win the next challenge, and 1Rob will be gone. Gone forever." (Charlie then whispered in my ear—so the cameras wouldn't catch it—"don't worry. I'm just playing it up for the audience."). Charlie did indeed end up winning the next elimination challenge.

After dinner that night, I wandered to the basement. I headed toward what I thought was the pantry, but it turned out to be an extra-large supply closet, with all sorts of cleaning chemicals. Just out of curiosity, I picked up a couple of the bottles to look at them, and then I heard a noise behind me. It was Charlie, who, after apologizing for scaring me, said, "I came down for some food." Then, from out of nowhere, Lennox Reynolds, one of the caretakers of the hotel, came out of an adjoining room, surprising us both. Lennox saw what was in my hand—it was a bottle of Oxalic Acid—grabbed it from me, and said, "Oh, don't touch this stuff. It's so dangerous." Charlie took the bottle from my hand, looked at it, and then put it back on the shelf. We then went back upstairs. No one was voted out that night. It was clear, though, that Charlie was the new target. I went into the after-dinner roundtable knowing that Charlie was going to be eliminated by everyone else. Or, at least, I thought I did. I heard afterward that most all the guests ended up switching their strategy at the last moment to have me eliminated

I heard that the next elimination challenge—a water diving one, but not the diving one everyone is now talking about—was a team challenge. Riley made Rob and Charlie team up for this one. No immunity was given. Still, that didn't stop Rob and Charlie from winning. Rob, as everyone who has watched the series knows, is an incredible swimmer and diver—probably Olympic level. I know from the notes that were shown to me that there was a "Sink or Swim" challenge—something similar to what they did in my season, but with more obstacles and, from what I'd been told, a lot more freedom with the sabotage.

I can tell you with 99.9% certainty that Charlie Martin didn't mean to do what they're accusing Charlie of. The "character" that you play on the reality show is very different from the person you are in real life. Charlie is a super-great person. Even though Charlie could get carried away with things and act a little emotional on screen, Charlie couldn't have wanted Rob dead. Plus, I heard a rumor that, after Season 10 ended, they were both going to get paid a huge amount to be in a commercial in the MLB All-Star game together, poking fun at themselves and the infamous betrayal of Season 2.

Exhibit 11 is a photograph of Rob Armstrong's scuba equipment during the underwater portion of the challenge held on April 6, 2025. All of the competitors were provided with equipment that looked the same as the gear in Exhibit 11, except the other competitors were assigned different colored masks. Rob's was blue. Charlie's was orange. Christyn's was pink. Terry's was purple, and Rascher's was green. I was eliminated before this challenge, so I didn't get a color.

/s/ Nel Doos
Nel Doos

Character Direct Questions

1. Introduce yourself to the members of the jury.

2. Can you describe the TV show, *The Saboteurs*?

3. Can you tell us about the first interaction you saw between Charlie Martin and Rob Armstrong that season?

4. What would Charlie Martin suggest for sabotaging other contestants?

5. How did Charlie Martin react to Rob Armstrong proposing an alliance with you?

6. Can you describe what you witnessed in the hotel basement?

If you have any questions/concerns, please email us at mocktrial.atucsd@gmail.com or visit mocktrialatucsd.com. See you at tryouts!

us if you don't show up