STATE OF	WISCONSIN: CIRCUIT COURT: MANITOWOC COUNTY BRANCH 3
STATE OF	WISCONSIN,
	PLAINTIFF, MOTION HEARING
vs.	Case No. 06 CF 88
BRENDAN	R. DASSEY,
	DEFENDANT.
Dame -	AUGUGE 25 2006
	AUGUST 25, 2006
BEFORE:	Hon. Jerome L. Fox Circuit Court Judge
APPEARAN	ICES:
	KENNETH R. KRATZ Special Prosecutor
	On behalf of the State of Wisconsin.
	LEONARD D. KACHINSKY Attorney at Law On behalf of the Defendant.
	BRENDAN R. DASSEY
	Defendant
	Appeared in person.
	* * * * * * *
	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
	Reported by Jennifer K. Hau, RPR
	Official Court Reporter
	(49)
	1

THE COURT: This is in the matter of the State of Wisconsin vs. Brendan R. Dassey. It's Case No. 06 CF 88. Appearances, please?

ATTORNEY KRATZ: The State of Wisconsin appears by Calumet County District Attorney Ken Kratz. I'm appearing as special prosecutor.

ATTORNEY KACHINSKY: Defendant appears personally with Attorney Len Kachinsky.

THE COURT: All right. Originally, this date and time was set as a scheduling conference.

New issues have arisen since we set this date. The Court intends to treat all the matters it believes it has before it now.

Um, on August 14, 2006, Attorney
Kachinsky filed with the Manitowoc County Clerk
of Courts's office a demand for speedy trial.
Under Wisconsin Section 971.10 (2), the trial of
a defendant shall commence within 90 days from
the date the defendant demands in writing his
trial. That demand was filed, as I said, on
August 14, 2006. Therefore, I'm setting the
trial in this matter to -- for November 1 through
the 17, 2006.

Prior to this demand for speedy trial, the Court had set February 5, 2007, as the

beginning date for the trial. In light of Judge Willis' decision to try State v. Avery, a case filed approximately four-and-a-half months before this case, uh, commencing on February 5, that time period is no longer available. While I have set November 1, 2006 as the start date for this case, that trial time may be subject to a motion for continuance, or continuances, depending on circumstances.

There's also a motion for change of venue under 971.22 filed by the defendant on March 17, 2006. That motion was supported by Mr. Kachinsky's affidavit detailing why he didn't think the defendant could get a fair trial in Manitowoc. Essentially, the affidavit said he couldn't get a fair trial because of the nature and extent of the pretrial publicity not only associated with this case but with the case of State v. Steven Avery.

The Court sets, uh, September 14, 2006 at 8:30 a.m. as the date and time for hearing that motion. Again, understanding that, uh -- depending on circumstances, that time may have to be changed.

On August 15, 2006 the Court received

from the State Public Defender's Office, from

Deborah Smith, a copy of a letter purportedly

sent to Attorney Kachinsky dated August 14, 2006.

That letter reads in material part as follows:

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Dear Mr. Kachinsky: I have received and reviewed a report from the Director of the Assigned Counsel Division, Deborah Smith. recommending that you be decertified from the Class A felony appointment list and the Trial 3, Class B-D felony list. Her recommendation is based on your failure to provide competent representation in the Brendan Dassey case. You have confirmed to her that you allowed law enforcement to interview your client on May 13, 2006 in your absence. You've confirmed to her that you were not present at the interview on May 13, 2006 because you had to attend army reserve training that weekend. It is difficult to imagine a situation when it would be appropriate to allow a client in a serious felony case to give a statement in the attorney's absence. To allow such an interview in this case is indefensible.

I'm removing you from Class A felony and Trial 3 certifications. It is no longer

appropriate for us to appoint you to these types of case. Judge Fox will be provided with a copy of this letter. You have the right to appeal this decision pursuant to Administrative Code PD 1.06(2). A written notice of appeal must be received by me within 30 days.

That letter is actually signed by the State Public Defender Nicholas Chiarkas.

Uh, I received it, uh, in conjunction with a letter sent to me. And I'll read that letter:

Dear Judge Fox: Please find enclosed a copy of a letter sent to Mr. Kachinsky advising him that we have removed him from our Class A felony certification list. We have taken this unusual action based on his actions in the Brendan Dassey case. We no longer feel it is appropriate for him to provide representation in these types of cases to public defender clients. If you have any questions about our action, please contact me.

And that is signed, uh, Deborah Smith, who is the Director of the Assigned Counsel Division of the State Office of Public Defender.

In response to that, Attorney Kachinsky

has filed a motion to withdraw as counsel. 1 2 motion which is part of the record in this matter 3 notes -- And I'm not going to go through the 4 entirety of the motion but I'm going to note a few things. Uh, among the factors the 5 undersigned attorney believes the Court should 6 7 consider are the following: 8 One, alleged inadequate performance of existing counsel. 9 10 Two, whether or not the alleged inadequate performance of counsel had an adverse 11 12 impact upon the defendant. 13

Three, the history of outside forces seeking to secure withdrawal of existing counsel.

Four, the wishes of the defendant and his mother that existing counsel continue to represent the defendant.

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Five, the impact of new counsel upon the defendant's demand for a speedy trial.

And, six, public confidence in the administration of justice.

Mr. Kachinsky supported that motion with what I'll describe as a very thorough affidavit.

In that affidavit -- And, again, I'm not going to read the affidavit word for word. I'm going to

summarize it. And when I'm done summarizing it, I'm going to ask Mr. Kachinsky if I fairly characterized it and ask him if he has anything further to add.

What he discusses in the affidavit is as follows:

Number one, his background as a defense lawyer, much of which was placed on the record at a hearing held on June 2, 2006 when Brendan Dassey, uh, said he sought to replace Mr.

Kachinsky as his court appointed counsel.

Two, his belief that others have been seeking to replace him as counsel. He specifically -- specifically mentions one of Steven Avery's attorneys as one who suggested to the defendant's mother that Attorney Kachinsky should be replaced.

Three, he mentions the services that he has provided the defendant as well as the interaction with the defendant.

Four, he sets forth his rationale for permitting the defendant to be interviewed on May 13, 2006 in his absence. Specifically, he says that his investigator interview -- excuse me -- that his investigator interviewed the

defendant on May 12, 2006 and obtained, quote, new information, end quote, from the defendant, some of which related to physical evidence which might be destroyed if other parties became aware of it.

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Attorney Kachinsky had a scheduled army reserve drill that weekend so he gave the defendant the option to speak with authorities either on May 13, 2006, the date of his reserve drill and for which he was unavailable, or May 17, 2006, the first day he was available.

The defendant chose to have the interview on May 13, 2006. Attorney Kachinsky made arrangements to have his investigator present at the interview. The interview was limited to clarifications — and, again, this is from Mr. Kachinsky's affidavit — clarifications of Mr. Dassey's March 1, 2006 interview, and Attorney Kachinsky would be available by cell phone to answer any questions.

Subsequent to the interview,

Mr. Kachinsky reviewed the tapes and a

transcript. He found the investigators had

complied with the agreed upon conditions.

The affidavit then alludes to the letter

from the public defender's office, uh, suggesting the public defender may have learned of the May 13, 2006 interview from counsel for Steven Avery.

Attorney Kachinsky also opines that the public defender's letter of 8 -- of August 14, 2006 may have been written to, in his words, and I'm quoting, maximize negative publicity, end quote.

He points out that the decertification is prospective, that means forward, and, therefore, does not apply to this case. He questions the state public defender's conclusion that his nonappearance at the May 13, 2006 interview was, quote, indefensible, end quote. Uh, he does this by citing to federal court practices where in some instances counsel need not be present during certain meetings and debriefings of their client.

Finally, he notes that both the defendant and his mother have requested that he remain on the case as defendant's attorney.

Before I talk to Mr. Kachinsky, uh, I would like to point to, uh, one thing. I would like to correct his assertion on page three of the affidavit where he says, referring to the

May 13 interview, quote, however, the information provided did not appreciably increase the strength of the State's case against Dassey. The Court made such a finding on June 2, 2006 when it denied the State's motion to increase the amount of the bond, end quote.

The Court made no such finding on, uh,

June 2, 2006. What the Court found -- And the

Court has not seen the interview nor read a

transcript of it. But what the Court found was

that the interview may have changed the texture

of the case. I think it was the -- the special

prosecutor's point that the interview as well as

some additional evidence that had been educed,

uh, since March 1 had, in effect, and he didn't

say this but I will, made a good case better.

Uh, I believe I said, and I reviewed the transcript, that the -- I thought that the -- the interview of May 13, based on what I saw in the special prosecutor's petition supporting his motion to -- to increase bail, may have changed the texture of the case but the case qualitatively remained the same. The same crimes were charged and the same penalties applied to the crimes that were charged.

1 I should point out that Mr. Kachinsky, 2 uh, supplemented his affidavit with a curriculum vitae of his investigator. Additionally, he 3 4 supplemented that with an affidavit from the 5 investigator which I received by fax yesterday. Now, I'm going to ask you, 6 7 Mr. Kachinsky, have I accurately summarized your 8 motion and affidavit? 9 ATTORNEY KACHINSKY: Uh, yes, Your Honor, 10 you have. 11 THE COURT: Is there anything -- Uh, you 12 better turn your mike on. 13 ATTORNEY KACHINSKY: Uh, yes, Your Honor, 14 the Court --15 THE COURT: Hit the button. 16 ATTORNEY KACHINSKY: There we go. 17 THE COURT: Yeah. 18 ATTORNEY KACHINSKY: Uh, the Court's --19 uh, Court's summarization, uh, is accurate, yes. 20 THE COURT: Is there anything that you wish 21 to add today? 22 ATTORNEY KACHINSKY: Uh, yes, Your Honor, I 23 would. Um, and in particular, uh, regarding item 24 number ten on page five, wishes of -- of the defendant and his mother, uh, at the time that this 25

was composed and written, I had spoken to Mr. Dassey last Friday and also last -- and also to his -- him and his mother, uh, Sunday, uh, at that time that was their wishes that I remain on the case.

Uh, subsequently, uh, yesterday morning approximately 11:00 or so I received a call from TV-11 indicating that there had been a phone call they had received from Barbara Janda indicating that they had changed -- or at least that Barbara Janda had changed her mind as to what, uh, Brendan wished to do regarding my continued, uh, representation. Uh, they came to my office to play the tape and, indeed, uh, according to the Barbara Janda tape I listened to, uh, she no longer believed -- or at least stated the same thoughts on that issue as she did on the evening of, uh, Sunday.

So, that -- that appears to have changed. I briefly spoke to Barb Janda, uh, just before court and she confirmed nothing had changed since yesterday. I've not, uh -- And I -- excuse me -- just spoke, to, uh, Brendan a couple minutes ago and he also indicated that he'd changed his mind since, uh, we spoke on Friday and Sunday of last week. So that has

changed.

Um, as a result of that, Your Honor, um, as to what my personal wishes are in the case, uh, frankly, I was willing to continue on with this case, and without a lot of vehement, uh, objection, uh, prior to that incident, uh, if Brendan Dassey had confidence in me, uh, as his attorney, I was more than willing to continue in spite of all the, uh, hubbub, um, in the media and with the State Public Defender's Office and, uh, everything else.

However, in light of Mr. Dassey's wish, uh, to get a new attorney, uh, that changes my position. I think in a case, uh, as serious as this, that, um, Mr. Dassey should, uh, have an attorney that he has, uh -- has confidence in.

In addition, it's unreasonably dis -difficult from my standpoint to, um, effectively
represent a client whose mind on various issue
changes, um, as often as Mr. Dassey's, uh, does,
and I believe it would probably, in light of
that, be in his best interests now, uh, to, uh,
get a new attorney even though I feel my
representation has been, uh, certainly adequate
in a constitutional sense and, uh, up to and

including more recent, uh, motions that have been filed that he asked me to.

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But because, uh, he now wishes me to withdraw and because, whatever the cause might be, it might be loss of confidence caused by the, uh, State Public Defender letter or whatever, that I think it would best that he start over with a new attorney. The Court, of course, decides contrary, uh, that's -- that's the Court's prerogative. But that's my personal desire.

THE COURT: All right. Would you give Mr. Dassey the microphone, please? Mr. Dassey, you were here on May 26, 2006 and June 2, uh, 2006, and each of those times I asked you if you wished to have new counsel appointed for you. On each of those occasions you said, yes. Do you remember that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yeah.

THE COURT: Uh, Mr. Kachinsky, in his affidavit, says at the time at least that the affidavit was constructed that you wished him to remain on the case. Was that true?

THE DEFENDANT: Yeah.

THE COURT: Uh, he also says that you may

1	have changed your mind. So, I'm going to ask you,
2	what is your wish as of today?
3	THE DEFENDANT: That I want him off the
4	case.
5	THE COURT: You remember you and I had a
6	discussion of that on June 2? I asked you a number
7	of questions? You recall that?
8	THE DEFENDANT: Yeah.
9	THE COURT: Is there any particular reason
10	that you want him off the case?
11	THE DEFENDANT: That I think he's not
12	helping me very much.
13	THE COURT: Are you telling me that you
14	don't think he is rendering you the assistance you
15	think you ought to be getting?
16	THE DEFENDANT: Yeah.
17	THE COURT: Do the two of you still get
18	along?
19	THE DEFENDANT: Yeah.
20	THE COURT: Any arguing? Fighting?
21	THE DEFENDANT: No.
22	THE COURT: Does he listen to you when you
23	tell him something?
24	THE DEFENDANT: Yeah.
25	THE COURT: Was there anything about the

1	letter from the public defender Did you see that
2	letter incidentally?
3	THE DEFENDANT: Yeah.
4	THE COURT: And someone talked to you about
5	it? Was there anything about that that upset you?
6	THE DEFENDANT: No.
7	THE COURT: That that wasn't a a
8	cause for upset, huh?
9	THE DEFENDANT: No.
10	THE COURT: Basically, you think that he
11	isn't acting in your best interest? And I don't
12	want to put words in your mouth. But is Uh, let
13	me rephrase that. Do you think he's acting in your
14	best interests?
15	THE DEFENDANT: I don't get what you're
16	saying.
17	THE COURT: Okay. Do you think he's on
18	your side?
19	THE DEFENDANT: Not really.
20	THE COURT: And that's because he doesn't
21	listen to you?
22	THE DEFENDANT: Well, he listens to me
23	but
24	THE COURT: Doesn't do what you want him to
25	do?

THE DEFENDANT: Yeah.

THE COURT: All right. Mr. Kratz, at this stage is there anything that you wish to add to the record?

ATTORNEY KRATZ: Your Honor, as I previously, uh, noted to the Court, I think the record, uh, needs to, uh, include the fact that, uh, decertification by the public defender's, uh, office, if, in fact, uh, that occurs, that, of course, can be withdrawn. But, if, in fact, that is the result, uh, does not amount to any, um, ineffective assistance, at least from a -- a constitutional, um, basis, we'd certainly need to have an outcome before that could ever be determined.

This Court also is aware that, uh, regarding the appearance of propriety, that is, if the Court, uh, decided to act under its supervisory authority, uh, that the State, uh, was requesting, uh, an evidentiary hearing, not only as to the circumstances surrounding the taking of the, uh, May 3, uh, statement, um, but what investigation, if any, the State Public Defender, uh, performed in coming to their, uh, indefensible representation conclusion.

Uh, also that, uh, this Court understands the State's concern as to

Mr. Kachinsky's performance, or the appearance of his performance, having an implication on the admissibility of that, uh, May 13 statement, this Court understands that we will need a hearing, um, regardless, on, uh -- on that particular issue.

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And so, um, I now hear Mr., um, Dassey, uh, although not citing any specifics as to what Mr. Kachinsky won't do for him, uh, hear his, um, stated belief that Mr. Kachinsky is not on his side. It is the defendant's, uh, Sixth Amendment right, after all, and obviously if this Court is, uh, persuaded that Mr. Dassey's making this decision, uh, of his own free will, that it's freely, voluntarily, without, uh, coercion or, um, anything along those lines from family members or outside influences, then the Court certainly is free to grant, uh, Mr. Dassey's request and, in turn, Mr. Kachinsky's, uh, motion to withdraw. Other than that, Judge, the State has no further position. Thank you.

THE COURT: All right. I -- I believe I understands -- understand the State's position. I'm

not necessarily sure -- In fact, I don't agree with it. I don't agree with the position the State has with respect the evidentiary hearings on this matter. Uh, I do understand that, uh, most, if not all, ineffective assistance of counsel motions are -- are held after the matter is over so there is a result that one looks at. But I think we have something a little bit different here.

Uh, Counsel is, of course, correct. The Sixth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, as well as Article I, Section VII of the Wisconsin -- the Wisconsin Constitution guarantee a defendant, such as Mr. Dassey, in criminal cases the right to counsel.

Uh, the U.S. Supreme Court, in a case called Wheat v. The United States, at 486 U.S.

153, specifically at page 159, said, while the right to select and be represented by one's preferred attorney is comprehended by the Sixth Amendment, the essential aim of the amendment is to guarantee an effective advocate for each criminal defendant rather than to ensure that a defendant will be inexorably represented by the lawyer whom he prefers. End of the quote.

Now, Wheat was a case involving a court

overriding a defendant's desire for a specific person as counsel. Incidentally, a privately paid, uh, attorney. It has a different factual context than the case that is before us today.

Nonetheless, I believe in the body of the case it identifies a number of the courts' and this Court's institutional concerns.

Concerns which I believe are applic -- applicable here despite the factual differences in the cases. Uh, those concerns are -- are synthesized or brought together in a Wisconsin case called
State v. Love at 227 Wis. 60 at, uh, page 81 and, uh, it says as follows:

First, the court's institutional interest is in ensuring that criminal trials are conducted within the ethical standards of the profession.

Second, the court's institutional interest is in ensuring that legal proceedings appear fair to all who observe them.

Third, a court's institutional interest is that the court's judgments remain intact on appeal and be free from future attacks over the adequacy of the waiver or fairness of the proceedings.

This Court has previously denied this defendant's request to replace Attorney Kachinsky because the Court did not believe good cause had been shown as required by law.

Uh, if we remember back to the June 2 hearing, I alluded to a case called **State v**. **Wanta** at 224 Wis. 679, specifically at, uh, page 703, which enumerated some examples of good cause that would permit the -- permit the substitution of counsel. Attorney incompetency, conflict of interest, irreconcilable differences, complete breakdown in communication.

Now, these are just illustrations.

These are not an exhaustive list of what constitutes good cause. But it has to be said that the same showing of good cause is required if the client is seeking to replace appointed counsel or appointed counsel is asking to withdraw from the case.

Appointed counsel in cases such as this, and, uh, I'm sure Attorney Kachinsky is well aware of that, can only be relieved of his obligation to defend this defendant if good cause is shown.

Here, we have appointed counsel who has

lost his public defender certification to accept appointments in Class A through D felonies.

Categories in which two of the charges against this defendant fall.

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Admittedly, this is a prospective decertification, not applicable to this case and subject to Mr. Kachinsky's right to appeal.

Nonetheless, and I think this is -- this is the overarching point, it is for actions that took place in this case. He allowed his 16-year-old client, who previous testimony has disclosed to have cognitive ability within borderline to below average rain -- range to be interviewed by law enforcement officials without his attorney present.

While Mr. Kachinsky sent his investigator with Mr. Dassey on May 13, 2006 to the interview and made himself available by cell phone, that is not in this Court's opinion enough. He is the lawyer for Mr. Dassey. This is a major case. His client is a young man with intellectual deficits. Attorney Kachinsky should have in the course of his representation of Mr. Dassey been there with his client.

The Court believes that Attorney

Kachinsky's failure to be present while his client gave a statement to investigators, a statement which, according to the special prosecutor's petition filed May 17 supporting his motion to increase bail, provided new information to authorities on the crimes charged here, I believe that constituted deficient performance on Attorney Kachinsky's part. This performance, coupled with the subsequent State Public Defender certification, raises at the least a threshold question of confidence and puts any further by -- representation by Attorney Kachinsky of Mr. Dassey under a cloud of uncertainty. This is not the kind of assistance of counsel a defendant should have.

I believe the reasons he gave for not being at the interview are insufficient to excuse his presence. His duty in this case in these circumstances was to his client and is to his client.

Moreover, whether or not his failure to appear was reported to the State Public Defender by some other attorney inv -- involved in a companion case is neither here nor there. It is his actions about which we are concerned, not who

reported them.

The Court believes that this episode constitutes good cause for withdrawal and, accordingly, I will grant his motion to withdraw.

Additionally, the Court believes

Attorney Kachinsky -- Kachinsky's withdrawal is
necessary to assure the entire proceeding be
viewed as fair and trying to ensure that we can
maintain public confidence in the administration
of justice and the fair administration of
justice.

Let me go back again to -- to one of the institutional concerns I mentioned in conjunction with Wheat v. The United States:

That is the third concern. A court's institutional interest that the court's judgments remain intact on appeal and be free from future attacks over the adequacy or fairness of the proceedings.

If this case has to be tried, I want to do my level best to make sure that it is tried only once. The prosecution, the defense, the families involved, the system deserve no less.

Accordingly, I -- as I have said, I'm going to grant Mr. Kachinsky's motion to withdraw. The

Court proposes to prepare the order and I'll have staff notify the State Public Defender's Office.

Anything further for this afternoon, gentlemen?

implicate the, uh -- the trial and change of venue dates, Judge. I don't know, um, how the State, uh, may particularly may be, um, included in the, um, decision to, uh, appoint new counsel or how this Court, uh, will be informed of that. I assume we will need some kind of a scheduling, uh, conference, uh, very soon thereafter.

THE COURT: Mr. Kachinsky?

ATTORNEY KACHINSKY: Uh, Your Honor, one problem that always seems -- occurs in, uh, withdrawal of counsel from cases is getting the file to successor attorney. Uh, if Mr. Dassey would, uh, consent on the record, I can just do that and not have to require the new attorney to go through the paperwork shuffle that --

THE COURT: All right. Mr. Dassey, do you understand what Counsel has said?

THE DEFENDANT: Yeah.

THE COURT: Uh, he has accumulated what I would guess to be a substantial file at this point.

Uh, do you have any objection to having that file

1 passed onto successor counsel as soon as that person 2 is appointed? 3 THE DEFENDANT: No. THE COURT: All right. Uh, I'll include 4 5 that -- I'll include that in the order. And, 6 Mr. Kratz, getting back to you just for a moment, 7 uh, rest assured we'll have a scheduling conference the -- the -- the moment, uh, I'm alerted to whoever 8 9 it is that's been appointed as successor counsel. Anything else, gentlemen? 10 11 ATTORNEY KRATZ: Nothing, Judge. Thank 12 you. 13 ATTORNEY KACHINSKY: No, Your Honor. 14 THE COURT: All right. We're adjourned. ATTORNEY KACHINSKY: Thank you. 15 16 (PROCEEDINGS CONCLUDED.) 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

1	STATE OF WISCONSIN)
2)SS. COUNTY OF MANITOWOC)
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4	I, Jennifer K. Hau, Official Court
5	Reporter for Circuit Court Branch 3 and the State
6	of Wisconsin, do hereby certify that I reported
7	the foregoing matter and that the foregoing
8	transcript has been carefully prepared by me with
9	my computerized stenographic notes as taken by me
10	in machine shorthand, and by computer-assisted
11	transcription thereafter transcribed, and that it
12	is a true and correct transcript of the
13	proceedings had in said matter to the best of my
14	knowledge and ability.
15	Dated this 6th day of September, 2006.
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19	Jennifer K. Hau, RPR Official Court Reporter
20	Official Court Reporter
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19	Jennifer K. Hau, RPR Official Court Reporter
20	Official Court Reporter
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