

## **BLOG: Defense calls DNA expert in Yust trial**



By: [Katelyn Brown](#)

*Posted at 8:40 AM, Apr 13, 2021 and last updated 2021-04-13 17:15:26-04*

**KANSAS CITY, Mo. — 3:40 p.m.** | Court is in recess for the day.

**3:37 p.m.** | Judge Collins will not allow the jury to hear J.S.'s testimony. He said it does not meet the stipulations of a three-pronged test required to admit a hearsay testimony under due process.

**3:30 p.m.** | The prosecution is cross examining J.S.

They appear to be making the argument J.S. made the statement about Bayes to lessen jail time he was facing.

The defense argues the prosecution can re-cross examine Bayes if they'd like and J.S.'s testimony should be admissible in court.

The prosecution is arguing the credibility of this witness, a known crystal methamphetamine dealer.

**3:15 p.m. |** Court has resumed for offers of proof.

A witness for the defense identified only by the initials J.S. said Billy Bayes told him he got high with a girl who "flopped," or overdosed.

Bayes said he and another man started to take her to the hospital when she died and they instead disposed of the body.

J.S. said Bayes told him it was "the missing Belton girl," presumably Kara Kopetsky.

**2:45 p.m. |** Judge Collins briefly brought the jury back in to read them instructions and dismiss them for the day. He, the attorneys and Yust will remain to hear more offers of proof this afternoon.

Defense attorneys and prosecutors will discuss this afternoon what witnesses will be allowed to testify tomorrow. [#YustTrial @41actionnews](#)

— Andres Gutierrez (@AFGutierrez) [April 13, 2021](#)

**1:57 p.m. |** The jury quickly hears from an apartment manager where Yust used to live. Then the court took recess.

Another brief testimony from Sandee Schneider, property manager of the Apple Creek Apts where Yust lived.

Schneider says they were posters saying 'I know what you did, we know where you live' hung up around the property about 10 yrs ago. [#YustTrial @41actionnews](#)

— Andres Gutierrez (@AFGutierrez) [April 13, 2021](#)

**1:54 p.m. |** A former girlfriend of Yust who reached out to him after seeing a special on Kara's disappearance is briefly called to the stand.

She added Yust on Facebook after watching a TV show surrounding the disappearance of Kopetsky. Moore wanted to get him to know better. The two casually dated in late Aug 2016. [#YustTrial](#) [@41actionnews](#)

— Andres Gutierrez (@AFGutierrez) [April 13, 2021](#)

**1:43 p.m.** | Blackwell said she found blood but not urine. There's no way to know if that was the clothing Yust was wearing when Jessica went missing.

In examining the clothing Blackwell did not observe urine stains

One of Yust's shoes did contain a blood stain [#YustTrial](#) [@41actionnews](#)

— Andres Gutierrez (@AFGutierrez) [April 13, 2021](#)

**1:41 p.m.** | The next witness is Nicole Blackwell, who checked Yust's clothing for DNA samples on Sept. 11, 2016.

Nicole Blackwell with the [@kcpolice](#) crime lab's DNA section is now testifying.

Blackwell looks for samples that would be good for DNA analysis.

She was asked to review Yust's clothing collected on 9/11/16. [#YustTrial](#)  
[@41actionnews](#)

— Andres Gutierrez (@AFGutierrez) [April 13, 2021](#)

**1:35 p.m.** | The defense called KCPD trace evidence supervisor of the KCPD Crime Lab Kevin Winer to the stand. He held the position during the Runions disappearance. He said it rained on Sept. 8 and 9 of 2016.

Defense now questioning Kevin Winer, who was the supervisor of the trace evidence sector at the KCPD Crime Lab during Runions' disappearance [#YustTrial](#)  
[@41actionnews](#)

— Andres Gutierrez (@AFGutierrez) [April 13, 2021](#)

**1:20 p.m.** | Dr. Snow said he believes there were flaws in evidence collection at the site of the remains.

— Andres Gutierrez (@AFGutierrez) [April 13, 2021](#)

**1:06 p.m.** | The defense calls its next witness: forensic anthropologist Dr. Rick Snow.

Dr. Snow reviewed the remains of both girls at the Jackson County Medical Examiner's Office on 9/16/2020#YustTrial @41actionnews

— Andres Gutierrez (@AFGutierrez) [April 13, 2021](#)

**1:01 p.m.** | Judge Williams Collins said Taylor-Austin's testimony doesn't meet the reliability standard and will be excluded from the trial.

**12:54 p.m.** | Taylor-Austin concludes her testimony in the offer of proof hearing with no cross-examination from the prosecution. The defense and state are now arguing the admissibility of the testimony.

**12:47 p.m.** | The prosecution has objected to Taylor-Austin's testimony on the grounds of its relevancy. The judge is allowing her to get to her conclusion before deciding whether or not the jury can hear it.

State chimes in saying this note belongs to Carter, who is NOT on trial and isn't relevant.

Judge Collins will allow her to finish before deciding whether or not to exclude her.  
[#YustTrial @41actionnews](#)

— Andres Gutierrez (@AFGutierrez) [April 13, 2021](#)

**12:42 p.m.** | Taylor-Austin is now walking the courtroom through her analysis of what she believes to be Gematria code.

**12:30 p.m.** | Taylor-Austin said she interviewed a number of people, including Yust, during her analysis of what appeared to be a coded message Carter left behind.

She said she also used a Bible to try to decode the message, but that was difficult because it's unknown what version of the Bible Carter used.

Among the items was a piece of paper that Austin believes had a coded message from Carter.

Austin reached out to the FBI & a rabbi in Israel for help to try to decode the message.

[#YustTrial @41actionnews](#)

— Andres Gutierrez (@AFGutierrez) [April 13, 2021](#)

**12:15 p.m.** | The jury is still in recess as the rest of the courtroom hears an offer of proof from a codes expert for the defense.

Lisa Taylor-Austin is a psychotherapist and expert on gangs who specializes in gang and prison codes.

The defense is bringing her in to talk about the notepad left in Jessep Carter's jail cell.

The judge will decide if the jury can hear this testimony or not.

Austin is also an expert in gang/prison code culture

She has reviewed photos of the items left behind by Carter in his jail cell found at the time of his death.[#YustTrial @41actionnews](#)

— Andres Gutierrez (@AFGutierrez) [April 13, 2021](#)

**12:03 p.m.** | Court is in recess as the defense lines up additional witnesses.

**12:01 p.m.** | Armstrong's testimony is excluded, the judge rules, based on the reliability, accuracy and relevancy of his account.

Judge Collins rules Armstrong is not a reliable witness and will exclude him from testifying

Court takes another brief break[#YustTrial @41actionnews](#)

— Andres Gutierrez (@AFGutierrez) [April 13, 2021](#)

**11:49 a.m.** | The judge will not allow the jury to hear Armstrong's testimony about the surveillance video.

The defense is now asking him about what he personally observed on Sept. 9, 2016.

**11:30 a.m.** | The jury is again dismissed from the courtroom as the state and judge hear testimony from Anthony "Tony" Armstrong, whose son is Jessep Carter's cousin.

**11:23 a.m. |** With the jury back in the courtroom, the defense calls Judy Young to the stand.

She said she reported seeing Runions' SUV in an area commonly used to dump trash in 2016.

**11:13 a.m. |** The defense is asking two investigators about a gold station wagon which they are trying to argue belonged to Jessep Carter.

The judge ruled to exclude that testimony on the grounds it is not relevant to the case.

The prosecution reiterates that it's Kylr Yust on trial, not Carter.

Two other offers of proof are denied, one of them from Michael Strong with the Belton Police Department. Took in tip from a woman who saw a suspicious car near the area where the remains were found.[#YustTrial @41actionnews](#)

— Andres Gutierrez (@AFGutierrez) [April 13, 2021](#)

**11:05 a.m. |** Court is back in session but the jury is not in the room as the defense runs through a couple offers of proof.

After hearing these testimonies, the judge will decide if they are relevant to the case and can be heard by the jury.

**10:30: a.m. |** Court is in short recess.

**10:15 a.m. |** The prosecution continues questioning Trainum about the timeline of events, this time after Runions' disappearance.

Trainum said he reviewed thousands of documents and has trouble remembering some of the specifics about this case.

The expert also said it is natural for homicide investigations to become suspect-driven. The problem in this case is that there was also confirmation bias at play, he said.

**9:50 a.m. |** Trainum said cross contamination of testimony can occur in a case such as this, when several witnesses are from the same area and are connected.

Trainum also said cases like Kopetsky's can be tricky due to the length of time and memory could affect testimony.

In cross examination, Cass County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Julie Tolle notes the history of abuse and cell phone records makes Yust the prime suspect in this case.

[#YustTrial @41actionnews](#)

— Andres Gutierrez (@AFGutierrez) [April 13, 2021](#)

**9:40 a.m.** | With the jury returned, Trainum talks about third parties approaching witnesses.

Jury is back.

Trainum discusses Amy Clark's statement, Clark went to police the day Kara went missing.

Clark provided a recorded statement to [@kcpolice](#) Ofc. Meierer. She was also approached by Kara's family members.[#YustTrial @41actionnews](#)

— Andres Gutierrez (@AFGutierrez) [April 13, 2021](#)

**9:29 a.m.** | The state makes an objection to Trainum's testimony so the jury leaves the room for attorneys to conference with the judge.

Questioning stops after the state objects--calls for a conference with Judge Collins.

Jury steps out.

Defense reminds Trainum he can't express hearsay.

State says defense's line of questioning is out of line.[#YustTrial @41actionnews](#)

— Andres Gutierrez (@AFGutierrez) [April 13, 2021](#)

**9:19 a.m.** | Trainum cites "supervisory" issues in the investigation.

Trainum noted there were supervisory issues--failure to rein in Officer Meierer was one of them [#YustTrial @41actionnews](#)

— Andres Gutierrez (@AFGutierrez) [April 13, 2021](#)

**9:14 a.m.** | Trainum discusses an investigation a Kansas City, Missouri, Police Officer carried out of their own accord.

He 'broke all the rules' of letting subjects know about case information [#YustTrial](#)  
[@41actionnews](#)

— Andres Gutierrez (@AFGutierrez) [April 13, 2021](#)

**9:08 a.m.** | Trainum points out failures in the investigation, specifically regarding Yust's alibi.

Trainum says there are failures in evidence collection

When they interviewed Yust and he gave an account such as being with people, making purchases--there was potential to corroborate [#YustTrial](#) [@41actionnews](#)  
[pic.twitter.com/IZsDZJhfgq](https://pic.twitter.com/IZsDZJhfgq)

— Andres Gutierrez (@AFGutierrez) [April 13, 2021](#)

**9:02 a.m.** | The defense is paying Trainum to review the case.

Trainum is being paid \$10K to review this case for the defense team. [#YustTrial](#)  
[@41actionnews](#)

— Andres Gutierrez (@AFGutierrez) [April 13, 2021](#)

**8:59 a.m.** | Trainum talks about the pressure of high-profile investigations.

Trainum: a high-profile case puts a lot of pressure on investigators to do something and reward money should not be linked to a conviction because there's always the incentive for the subject to change their testimony to get the reward money. [#YustTrial](#)  
[@41actionnews](#)

— Andres Gutierrez (@AFGutierrez) [April 13, 2021](#)

**8:52 a.m.** | Police procedure expert James Trainum is being asked about possible errors in the investigations.

James Trainum who specializes on police procedures and interrogations is on the stand being asked by defense attorney Sharon Turlington about investigative failure [#YustTrial](#) [@41actionnews](#)

— Andres Gutierrez (@AFGutierrez) [April 13, 2021](#)



Defense calls Matthew Bauchle Assistant General Manager at Ignite Medical Resorts.

Ignite Medical Resorts owns what used to be Carondelet Manor.

Bauchle explains records are purged every seven years.

Brief questioning. State doesn't cross examine [#YustTrial](#)

— Andres Gutierrez (@AFGutierrez) [April 13, 2021](#)

**8:30 a.m.** | As the murder trial of Kylr Yust enters its seventh day, the defense is expected to continue to present their case.

On Monday, [the defense had their first day to begin their case](#), but the jury spent most of the day outside of the courtroom as the defense team had to first introduce new witnesses to the judge for admission.

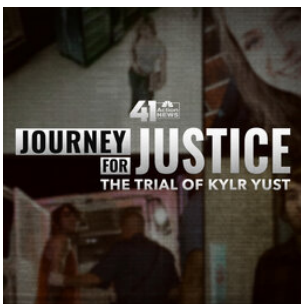
Those included prison guards present at Jessep Carter's death, paralegals who worked on the case previously and a possible alternate suspect in the Kara Kopetsky case.

The defense appears to be trying to paint other people, including Carter, as potential suspects that were not thoroughly investigated.

Judge William Collins ultimately did not allow testimony about Carter's suicide in prison to go before the jury.

The jury was allowed to hear the deposition taken from Yust's grandfather, Alfred Yust, before his death.

The defense has 16 witnesses to call on Tuesday.



The 41 Files

Trial update #7

00:00 / 11:28