

BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT OF OHIO

STATE OF OHIO

**CASE NOS.: 2008-0853
2008-0858**

PLAINTIFF-APPELLANT

**ON APPEAL FROM CASE NO. 07 MA 71
BEFORE THE COURT OF APPEALS FOR
THE SEVENTH APPELLATE DISTRICT**

-vs-

JESSICA DEROV

DEFENDANT-APPELLEE

APPELLEE'S MOTION FOR CLARIFICATION AND/OR RECONSIDERATION

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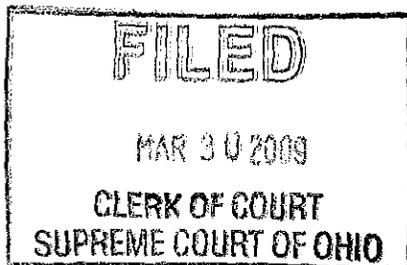
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MOTION FOR CLARIFICATION AND/OR RECONSIDERATION

Now comes Appellee, Jessica Derov, who is supported in this motion by *Amicus Curiae*, Ohio Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (OACDL), and moves this Honorable Court to reconsider and/or clarify its Judgment Entries issued on March 18, 2009, in the above cases, and the Slip Opinion issued said date as State v. Derov, Slip Opinion No. 2009-Ohio-1111.

This case involved consolidated cases. Case 2008-0853 was originally accepted as a conflict between two courts of appeals; the issue in that case was presented as Proposition of law II. Case No. 2008-0858 was accepted as a discretionary appeal and consolidated with the former case; the issues accepted for discretionary review were presented as Propositions of Law Nos. I and III. It is unfortunate that the latter issues were accepted as a great deal of the time at Oral Argument was spent on those issues.

I. Confusion about the Holdings relative to Propositions of Law Nos. I and III

It *appears* this Honorable Court ultimately dismissed Propositions of Law Nos. I and III as having been improvidently accepted. Thus the resolution of these issues in Court of Appeals remain intact. However, the wording of the Slip Opinion leaves the parties and lower courts in a quandary as to whether that is what the holdings of this Honorable Court actually mean. The paragraphs from the slip opinion which causes this confusion are as follows.

{¶ 3} Sua sponte, the appeal is dismissed as to appellant's Proposition of Law Nos. I and III as having been improvidently accepted.

{¶ 4} The opinion of the court of appeals may not be cited as authority except by the parties inter se.

Presumably ¶ 4 is intended to apply to a specific part of Proposition of Law No. II dealing with preliminary breath tests (see discussion below), which this Honorable Court did directly address in its Slip Opinion. However, the most common response counsel for movants has heard from colleagues who have read the Slip Opinion is “what does this mean?” Moreover since the Court of Appeals opinion regarding Propositions I and III remain intact it would seem illogical that the Court of Appeals decision could not be cited relative to its discussions or holdings in those Propositions. For this reason the movants herein request that this Honorable Court clarify its holdings relative to Propositions Nos. I and III.

II. Confusion / Concern about the Holdings relative to Propositions of Law Nos. II

This Honorable Court dismissed Case 2008-0853 and Proposition of Law No. II on the grounds that no conflict existed. Indeed, the court found that the record in the trial court was so lacking that the matter could not be decided. The movants herein do not disagree with that holding or that resolution of the case and agree that the *prosecution* had not introduced enough evidence at the trial court relative to the Preliminary Breath Testing (PBT) device for either the appellate court or this Honorable Court to make a factual determination as to the scientific accuracy of PBTs in general or the specific device used in the instant case. The movants’ confusion and concern arise as a result of certain language in the Slip Opinion. In the Slip Opinion this Honorable Court held:

{¶ 1} The record in the trial court concerning the portable breathalyzer test used in this case is not sufficient to support either the statements in the opinion of the court of appeals regarding the use of the portable breathalyzer and the value of its test results *or the judgment that the trial court should not have considered the results of the portable breath test.* Accordingly, that portion of the judgment of the court of appeals is reversed, and the cause is remanded to the court of appeals for further proceedings. (Emphasis added.)

{¶ 2} In view of the foregoing disposition of appellant's Proposition of Law No. II, the notice of certified conflict is dismissed for want of a conflict.

Again the movants do not take particular issue with the language "The record in the trial court concerning the portable breathalyzer test used in this case is not sufficient to support ... the statements in the opinion of the court of appeals regarding the ... the portable breathalyzer and the value of its test results." However the remainder of that sentence would seem to hold that where a party *fails submit sufficient evidence to a trial court* upon which that court can make a determination as to the scientific accuracy or reliability of the evidence the party wishes to admit into evidence the court of appeals is without authority to reverse -and indeed errs in reversing- the trial court where the trial court admitted the evidence.

In the instant case the burden was on the state -as the proponent of the PBT evidence- to present evidence (and legal arguments) in the trial court in support of the admissibility of the PBT results. Absent such evidence and a legal theory for admission of the evidence the trial court clearly errs in admitting and/or considering the PBT evidence. This Honorable Court and the movants agree that the State did not admit sufficient evidence in the trial court upon which any court could determine the admissibility of the PBT. For that reason the Court of Appeals was not in error in concluding that the trial court erred in admitting the PBT and the movants ask this Honorable so hold.

WHEREFORE, Appellee, moves this Honorable Court clarify and/or reconsider the Slip Opinion issued said in the above cases.

Respectfully submitted,



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PROOF OF SERVICE

This is to certify that a copy of the was served by regular U.S. Mail this 30th day of March, 2009, upon the following:

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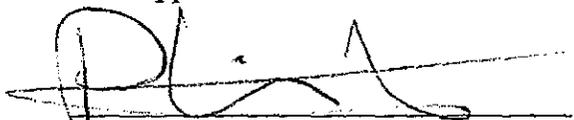
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The Ohio Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers hereby support and
join in the Appellee's Motion For Clarification And/Or Reconsideration

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Timothy Huey', written over a horizontal line.

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