

QUEEN'S BENCH
THOMPSON, MANITOBA

BETWEEN:

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

-and-

KENNETH RHODES

Accused.

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS had and taken before the Honourable Mr. Justice Dewar, in the City of Thompson, Province of Manitoba, on the 18th day of February, 2011.

Restriction on publication: By court order pursuant to s. 486.4(1) of the *Criminal Code*, any information that could identify the complainant shall not be published in any document or broadcast or transmitted in any way.

APPEARANCES:

S. Seesahai, & D. Gray, ON BEHALF OF THE CROWN

D. Coggan, ON BEHALF OF THE ACCUSED

1 February 18, 2011

2 R. v. Kenneth Rhodes

3

4

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6 486.4(1) of the **Criminal Code**, any information that could
7 identify the complainant shall not be published in any
8 document or broadcast or transmitted in any way.

9 The Court: Appearances for the record.

10 S. Seesahai: Seesahai, first initial S, for the
11 Crown. That's S-E-E-S-A-H-A-I, first initial S. And also
12 present for the Crown is my colleague, Mr. Gray.

13 D. Coggan: Coggan appearing for Mr. Rhodes my
14 Lord, first initial D. Mr. Rhodes is present in the body of
15 the court.

16 The Court: Right.

17 D. Coggan: Don't know if you are fine with his
18 sitting there or if you wanted him in the prisoner's dock.
19 I believe --

20 The Court: That's fine for now.

21 D. Coggan: -- we're prepared to proceed.

22 S. Seesahai: My Lord, your Lordship has
23 convicted the accused, Kenneth Rhodes, of the sexual assault
24 committed on C.P. on August 19th, 2006. I open my comments
25 by drawing to My Lord's attention that without public
26 confidence in the Criminal Justice System, respect for the
27 rule of the law is imperiled. This sentencing by your
28 Lordship will raise a number of issues related to
29 maintaining public confidence in the sentencing process.
30 And I say that My Lord because I expect that the submissions
31 that you'll hear this morning from Crown and from Defence
32 will be quite different in terms of the sentence that we

1 propose is appropriate. We are quite far apart as I except
2 you will hear. So there will be a number of issues to
3 consider.

4 The facts established at trial in - in brief summary,
5 My Lord, were that C.P. was raped in the middle of the night
6 on the side of a dark highway. It was an isolated spot in a
7 remote area of the Province. C.P., a petite 26 year old
8 woman at the time, found herself in a situation well beyond
9 her own control when she was at the side of that highway.
10 She was at the mercy of the larger and older accused,
11 Kenneth Rhodes. He did take advantage of C.P. for his own
12 sexual satisfaction. And the actions of the accused that
13 night, in the Crown's submission, were repugnant and
14 reprehensible.

15 Sexual assault, according to Section 271 of the
16 Criminal Code of Canada, carries a maximum sentence of ten
17 years imprisonment. There is a procedure for sentencing
18 that the sentence must satisfy. And I draw to My Lord's
19 attention the pertinent provisions of the Criminal Code of
20 Canada. A fundamental purpose of sentencing - this at
21 Section 718 of My Lord's Criminal Code - a fundamental
22 purpose of sentencing is:

23

24 To contribute along with crime prevention
25 initiatives. To respect for the law and the
26 maintenance of a just, peaceful and safe
27 society by imposing just sanctions that have
28 one or more of the following objectives: to
29 denounce unlawful conduct, to deter the
30 offender and others from committing offences,
31 to separate offenders from society where
32 necessary, to assist in rehabilitating

1 offenders, to provide reparations for harm
2 done to victims and to the community and to
3 promote a sense of responsibility in
4 offenders.

5
6 Parliament has deemed at 718. 1 of the Criminal Code of
7 Canada that a sentence must be proportionate to the gravity
8 of the - the offence and to the degree of responsibility of
9 the offender. The Criminal Code also mandates at 718.2 of
10 the Code that your Lordship shall take into consideration a
11 number of secondary principles in sentencing. This is
12 again, at 718.2 of the Criminal Code and it includes the
13 principle of reducing or increasing sentence based on
14 mitigating or aggravating circumstances. And you will see
15 that section that there are a number of factors that the
16 Criminal Code suggests would be relevant. This section, of
17 course, also does say that that is not an exhaustive list,
18 it's a - a list without limiting the generality of the
19 foregoing and suggests a number of different factors that
20 the court might look at.

21 The Court: And - and in this case, though
22 there's no specified aggravating factor that is applicable.

23 S. Seesahai: I don't believe so, your Honour.

24 The Court: Yeah.

25 S. Seesahai: Not from my review of that
26 particular list. And again, that's a non-exhaustive list.

27 The Court: I - I appreciate that.

28 S. Seesahai: Before continuing, your Honour, my
29 comments on sentencing, I - I've set out for your Lordship
30 the procedure to be followed and what the sentence must
31 satisfy. I will also have an exhibit on sentencing that I
32 will be referring to shortly in my comments. It is a Victim

1 Impact Statement from the victim, C.P. And I would like to
2 file a copy of that as exhibit S1.

3 The Court: Mr. Coggan, have you seen it?

4 D. Coggan: I have, yes.

5 S. Seesahai: I hand that now to Madam Clerk.

6 The Clerk: Exhibit S1 (inaudible).

7

8 **EXHIBIT "S1": VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT**

9

10 S. Seesahai: And I would ask that the Pre-
11 Sentence Report, I trust my Lord already has a copy of that
12 on the court pocket, by marked as exhibit 2 - exhibit S2 on
13 sentence.

14 The Court: Here it is.

15 S. Seesahai: And I'll just give My Lord a moment
16 to peruse the Victim Impact Statement. It's not lengthy.

17 The Clerk: Exhibit S2 My Lord.

18

19 **EXHIBIT "S2": PRE-SENTENCE REPORT**

20

21 The Court: Alright.

22 S. Seesahai: My Lord, the Crown submits that
23 there are a number of aggravating factors surrounding the
24 circumstances of this offence and the offender. I draw to
25 My Lord's attention that is his testimony, Mr. Rhodes, made
26 comments which shifted blame to the victim of the offence.
27 I further note that Mr. Rhodes continued with penile
28 penetration of the victim's vagina and briefly her anus,
29 after she had expressed pain from her comment when he was
30 digitally penetrating her vagina and fear. Your Lordship did
31 find on the facts that there was a comment from her asking
32 if he planned to kill her.

1 I also draw to My Lord's attention that the victim's
2 back was injured with bruising over the, essentially, entire
3 backside of her body. This was before the court from S.M.'s
4 uncontested evidence. And I would respectfully submit that
5 those injuries come from either the accused rape of the
6 victim, C.P., or from the victim's partially unclothed
7 flight through the woods and likely, both.

8 I draw to My Lord's attention that the victim was so
9 afraid that she fled through the pan - without pants through
10 the woods. It was dark. It was the middle of the night in
11 a remote area. She did this because the victim had to flee
12 to escape Mr. Rhodes' attack on her. She ultimately had to
13 go onto a dark highway, without pants, trying to flag down
14 help. And ultimately she had to ride back to safety in a
15 vehicle with her abuser.

16 It is the Crown's position that Mr. Rhodes took
17 advantage of the victim while she was intoxicated and
18 therefore, vulnerable. There is a significant size and age
19 differences between the victim and the accused at the time
20 of the offence. He did pursue the victim after she had
21 clearly rebuffed him. Although, the Crown does concede that
22 this attenuate by the victim's response to subsequent
23 advances by Mr. Rhodes during the walk to the highway.

24 I also draw to My Lord's attention that there were
25 three separate types of unwanted violations to the sexual
26 integrity of the victim, C.P. There was digital
27 penetration, vaginal and brief anal penile penetration and
28 there was cunillingus. I draw to My Lord's attention that
29 the victim, for all intents and purposes, was as stranger to
30 Mr. Rhodes. He had known her for approximately a 20 minute
31 ride from a parking lot down to Ospwagon Lake.

1 The Victim Impact Statement, which is filed as exhibit
2 S1, illustrates to My Lord the terrible emotional impacts
3 that this particular crime has had on C.P. And I draw to My
4 Lord's attention, from her comments, that these effects are
5 ongoing. She indicates on an ongoing basis that she feels
6 at sometimes a prisoner in her own home. That she will not
7 go out and do anything. It still causes stress in her
8 personal life and relationships.

9 She also has provided My Lord with comments about more
10 immediate trauma she suffered as a result of the offence.
11 The bruises on her back, she indicates, were painful for a
12 short time. She indicates that shortly and sometime after
13 the incident she was in shock, fear, pain and traumatized.
14 She indicates it took her awhile to confide in her family
15 about it because she was afraid of what they would think or
16 do. I note that she also has a permanent reminder. She has
17 a scar on her leg, which she indicates is a reminder when
18 she looks at it of what she had to go through on that
19 particular night.

20 At the time C.P. was caring for her - for her Kohkum,
21 which is her grandfather or grandmother, I'm sorry. So
22 although she wasn't - she didn't have employment that was
23 affected as a result of the result, she was a caregiver and
24 she was unable to engage for a period of time in - in caring
25 for her grandmother.

26 She also indicates, I note, that she will not go
27 anywhere alone. And that is information provided from C.P.,
28 now a number of years after the offence occurred. So it is
29 clear from the Victim Impact that this harm that she has
30 suffered in several ways is ongoing and will be ongoing
31 throughout her life.

1 The actions of Mr. Rhodes on the night question
2 constitute, in the Crown's submission, a major sexual
3 assault. I have submitted to My Lord a number of
4 authorities in relation to major sexual assault. And you
5 will have noted from the case law that I filed, that there
6 is discussion about what this category constitutes.

7 I draw My Lord's attention to the case of Sandercock at
8 tab two on the Crown's book of supplementary materials.

9 The Court: Right.

10 S. Seesahai: At paragraph 13 of that decision
11 the Alberta Court of Appeal set out, and this is in 1986 My
12 Lord, a definition of major sexual assault.

13 The Court: Right.

14 S. Seesahai: And - just a moment My Lord. Just
15 to read in the - the pertinent parts of that quote, your
16 Honour. At this point the Alberta Court of Appeal said
17 that:

18 A major sexual assault was where a person, by
19 violence or threat or violence, forces an
20 adult victim to submit to sexual activity or
21 a sort or intensity such that a reasonable
22 person would know beforehand that the victim
23 likely would suffer lastly emotional or
24 psychological injury, whether or not physical
25 injury occurs. Injury might come from the
26 sexual aspect of the situation or from the
27 violence used or from any combination of the
28 two.

29
30 They - they go on to describe specific behaviours that
31 the court would place within this category. And they
32 include rape, which is non-consensual sexual intercourse and

1 they also include attempted rape; fellatio, cunillingus and
2 buggery.

3 Now this case has been reconsidered in the recent and
4 very thorough judgment of Arcand, that I filed for My Lord's
5 consideration. In this case the Alberta - Alberta Court of
6 Appeal was considering a number of cases that followed from
7 Sandercock in their jurisdiction, which were argued to have
8 watered down or - or affected both the definition and the
9 expected sentence that was appropriate for a major sexual
10 assault. So in this judgment at paragraph 171, the majority
11 of the Alberta Court of Appeal in a decision penned by the
12 Chief Judge - Chief Justice Catherine Fraser, the do
13 redefine a major sexual assault as:

14

15 Where the sexual assault is of a nature or
16 character such that a reasonable person could
17 foresee that it is likely to cause serious
18 psychological or emotional harm, whether or
19 not physical injury occurs. The harm might
20 come from the force threatened or used or
21 from the sexual aspect the situation or from
22 any combination of the two. A major sexual
23 assault includes, but is not limited to; non-
24 consensual vaginal intercourse, anal
25 intercourse, fellatio and cunillingus.

26

27 The court also says that:

28

29 They are satisfied that making this
30 assessment of whether a sexual assault is a
31 major sexual assault is well within the
32 capacity of sentencing judges.

1

2 At paragraph 172, the Alberta Court of Appeal begins to
3 discuss the aspect of violence as it relates to major sexual
4 assault. They do find it unnecessary to include in the
5 definition of major sexual assault an express reference to
6 violence or threat of violence in perpetrating the sexual
7 assault.

8

9 It goes without saying that a major sexual
10 assault is an act of violence. The three
11 year starting point again, set in Sandercock,
12 assumes that this is so. Therefore, this
13 language would be redundant.

14

15 And they go on to provide further rationale in that
16 paragraph 172 about this issue of violence.

17 So essentially what the Alberta Court of Appeal has
18 done is recognized that a major sexual assault in and of
19 itself is a crime of violence. A specific enunciation of
20 violence or threat in the facts is required.

21 The Alberta Court of Appeal at paragraph 173 expressly
22 recognized that cases post Sandercock had failed to
23 recognize the gravity of a major sexual assault and the harm
24 that is inherent in them.

25 At paragraph 176 of that decision, the court makes
26 clear that rape is non-consensual vaginal intercourse.

27 And they go on later in the decision at paragraph 275,
28 to note that violence is inherent. If I may just have a
29 moment your Honour. I'm looking for a different paragraph
30 in the decision. I'm looking for the part in the judgment,
31 your Honour, where - My Lord, excuse me, where they refer to
32 the Supreme Court of Canada in McCraw. I don't see the

1 particular paragraph in front of me at the moment, but in
2 any event, I'll have a look for it.

3 But going forward from that and - and continuing with
4 this point, they do make it clear in a discussion of the
5 facts, both of - of the incident that had occurred in Arcand
6 and in the reconsider cases that they were reviewing, that
7 the fact of a penis in the vagina is, in their words,
8 incontrovertibly a major sexual assault. That's at
9 paragraph 266 of the decision.

10 In that part of the decision and in the paragraphs that
11 follow, the Alberta Court of Appeal, in reviewing some
12 comments by the sentencing judge, make it clear that there
13 is no such thing as a "technical major sexual assault".
14 They also discuss that major sexual assault intrinsically
15 includes the likelihood of very real psychological or
16 emotional harm. And they also discuss apart from the harm
17 to the victim, that they intrinsically include harm to
18 society that needs to be addressed. In the case before you,
19 apart from the fact that it is understood now in appellate
20 case law that harm is intrinsic to the offence, you have
21 before you the impact of the victim in this particular case.

22 Given these particular tests as set out by the Alberta
23 Court of Appeal and bearing in mind that Sandercock itself
24 has been followed in Manitoba, and I will get to that
25 further in my argument when I - I talk about the case law
26 that the Crown filed, but the Alberta Court of Appeal has
27 certainly been recognized as the court that set up that
28 definition. And for that reason the case of Arcand is a -
29 as case which I - I don't believe, as far as I'm aware, has
30 been considered yet in our jurisdiction in a reported
31 decision. Certainly Sandercock has been repeatedly.

1 It would be my submission that given these very clear
2 comments from the Court of Appeal, when you have before you
3 a set of facts where Mr. Rhodes penis was in C.P.'s vagina,
4 it touched her anus; his fingers were in her vagina and her
5 performed oral cunillingus on her, that it is
6 incontrovertibly a major sexual assault.

7 The paramount principles of sentencing for major sexual
8 assault must be considered. The paramount principles for an
9 offence of the type are deterrence, both specific and
10 general and denunciation. This is reflected by the fact
11 that Parliament has now disallowed conditional sentences for
12 offences of this type. There is a discussion of that in the
13 Arcand decision. It starts around paragraph 145.

14 In the case that you have before you, given the date of
15 the offence, a conditional sentence is among the range of
16 sentences available for a sexual assault simplisitor. It
17 certainly is not appropriate here given the gravity of the
18 offence and the fact that the paramount principle My Lord
19 will consider - will be denunciation and deterrence, both
20 specific to Mr. Rhodes, which I'll discuss in a moment, and
21 general deterrence. Parliament did take away this option of
22 conditional sentencing for the crime of sexual assault
23 specifically because such sentences did not reflect the
24 gravity of the offence and because Parliament intended --

25 D. Coggan: My Lord, I'm just going to object,
26 if I can. My friend is talking about political consequences
27 that occurred after the date of the offence.

28 The Court: Yeah, you can - you - make your
29 argument when it's your turn. Well.

30 D. Coggan: I'm raising an objection My Lord,
31 if I can, that I think she's --

1 The Court: I - I think I'm entitled to hear
2 it. You can tell me why she's wrong when it comes time --

3 D. Coggan: Thank you My Lord.

4 The Court: -- for your submission.

5 D. Coggan: Thank you. That's fine.

6 S. Seesahai: In - in terms of this particular
7 point, your Honour, there is, of course, a discussion and
8 I'll, given the objection, I'll just - I just need the.
9 This issue of Parliament's intent has been considered by an
10 appellate court, of course, in the Arcand decision. At
11 paragraph 281 of that decision, the Alberta Court of Appeal,
12 which of course in the decision, has been referring to
13 Hansard and other such things that assist in determine -
14 determining Parliamentary intent, discusses this - this
15 issue itself.

16 In the Arcand decision, of course, what the sentencing
17 judge had done was sentenced an accused to a 90 day
18 intermittent sentence. So it wasn't a conditional sentence,
19 but it was a short sentence. It was not a penitentiary
20 term. And the Crown had appealed on that basis. And the
21 court addresses this at paragraph 281.

22

23 The 90 days in jail, which is the maximum
24 period possible for an intermittent sentence,
25 does more than suggest that important
26 principles such as parity, denunciation and
27 deterrence got little or no weight. It
28 suggests that the arithmetic was adjusted to
29 force a pre-determined answer. Parliament did
30 not close the door to conditional sentences
31 for major sexual assaults (because they
32 failed to reflect the gravity of the - the

1 offence) so that the courts might open
2 another one, the 90-day intermittent sentence
3 option, that depreciates the gravity of the
4 offence even further. Selecting the top end
5 of the intermittent sentence as the lowest
6 custodial sentence for a major sexual assault
7 is akin to searching for a way round
8 Parliament's intention in barring conditional
9 sentences for sexual assault. That intention
10 is clear. Major sexual assaults are to be
11 sentenced for the serious crimes they are.

12

13 The Court: But why though is Mr. Rhodes to be
14 tarred with the thinking of Parliament after the date of the
15 offence? That's what I have some trouble with. I
16 understand you saying rule it out because it's not - it's
17 not appropriate.

18 S. Seesahai: Yes.

19 The Court: I understand that. Where I have
20 difficulty is, if Parliament decides to change the
21 sentencing regime and take away conditional sentences, is it
22 appropriate for me to say to - extrapolate that back to the
23 time of the offence?

24 S. Seesahai: Well overall, what My Lord is going
25 to do is sentence Mr. Rhode - Mr. Rhodes to the sentence
26 that is appropriate given the gravity of the offence and the
27 circumstances of --

28 The Court: Right.

29 S. Seesahai: -- the offender. I would suggest
30 that what has happened with sexual assault sentencing post
31 2007, subsequent to this offence, shed lights on
32 appropriateness of sentences. So while a conditional

1 sentence may have been available pre 2007, the fact that it
2 changed later certainly doesn't, of itself, disentitled Mr.
3 Rhodes to that type of sentence. But it allows My Lord to
4 reflect upon the seriousness of this particular category of
5 sexual assault. I'm not sure in terms of your questions
6 about sort of tarring him with that brush and so forth.

7 The Court: That may have been a poor choice of
8 words. But you - you have my point. That today there is no
9 alternative, for something like this, other than jail.

10 S. Seesahai: Correct.

11 The Court: In 2006 there was.

12 S. Seesahai: Yes. There - there was that option
13 certainly. And that option is foreclosed now.

14 The Court: Right.

15 S. Seesahai: Just because there was an option,
16 in - in my respectful submission, doesn't mean it was
17 appropriate, doesn't mean it was ever appropriate.

18 The Court: And I accept that submission.

19 S. Seesahai: Appellate courts, generally
20 speaking, have been in agreement, and - and I feel
21 comfortable submitting that to My Lord that approximately a
22 three year point is the starting point or guideline. This
23 is not an absolute, but it is a starting point. The
24 Saskatchewan Court of Appeal so found in April of 2010 in
25 the case of the Queen and Revet, R-E-V-E-T; that's
26 Saskatchewan Court of Appeal - get My Lord the exact
27 citation. I'll read My Lord the quote just so that --

28 The Court: That doesn't ring a bell. That's
29 not in these authorities.

30 S. Seesahai: It's not. I didn't have other
31 reasons to file the whole decision itself, but this is what
32 they said My Lord. The citation of this case is - neutral

1 citation (2010) SK C.A., 71. At paragraph 24 of that
2 decision the court says, and I quote:

3
4 This Court has repeatedly held that in
5 major sexual assaults involving adult
6 offenders and victims, three years would
7 be considered a starting point from which
8 a sentencing judge should start,
9 increasing or decreasing the term
10 according to the aggravating and
11 mitigating factors.

12
13 That's appellate law from the Saskatchewan Court of
14 Appeal.

15 The most recent decision that I could find for a clear
16 statement from the Manitoba Court of Appeal, on this point,
17 is a case of Queen and Wright, that's W-R-I-G-H-T, neutral
18 citation (2010) MB C.A., 80. This is a case - I didn't
19 file it My Lord. It was not a major sexual assault. It was
20 not found by the Court of Appeal to be such. So on the
21 facts (inaudible) not pertinent for our purposes, but the
22 court makes the following comment at paragraph 21 of that
23 decision. This was delivered September 7th of 2010. So,
24 from my research, this was the most recent comment from our
25 appellate court on this issue. And I'll just read you the
26 full paragraph so that's it clear.

27
28 The accused points out that the sentencing
29 judge found, on the facts of this case, that
30 the attack on the victim was not a major
31 sexual assault. He also makes the point that
32 this court has repeatedly stated that the

1 starting point guideline for a major sexual
2 assault is three years' imprisonment, subject
3 to the required adjustment resulting from the
4 aggravating and mitigating factors
5 surrounding the offence and offender.
6

7 The defence in this case had gone on to argue about the
8 four year sentence that had been imposed on Mr. Wright for a
9 sexual offence that was not a major sexual assault and the
10 case deals primarily with that.

11 This was the most recent case that I could find where
12 there was mention of this particular standard being accepted
13 in our jurisdiction.

14 One of the first cases that I filed, Borkowsky - and
15 unfortunately, that's not in the supplementary book. That
16 would have been a case that I filed separately My Lord.

17 The Court: I've got it.

18 S. Seesahai: Is another case from our Court of
19 Appeal dealing with major sexual assault that discusses
20 Sandercock. There was an argument in that case that the
21 sentencing judge had misapplied Sandercock in terms of
22 starting at three years and adjusting for aggravating and
23 mitigating factors. This argument starts at paragraph 51 of
24 the Borkowsky decision. It goes on to evaluate the argument
25 the defence was making.

26 I draw your attention to paragraph 58. Borkowsky was a
27 case where the offender, when he was sentenced, was 70 years
28 old My Lord. He had committed the offence when he was 66
29 years old and sentenced when he was 70. There were a number
30 of health issues that were plaguing the accused at the time
31 that he was sentenced. And there was a fair bit or argument
32 about his three year sentence that he had received was

1 appropriate and that the court had misapplied or not taken
2 adequate consideration of the mitigating factors being the
3 fact that he didn't have a criminal lawyer - criminal record
4 and the fact that he was elderly and in - (inaudible) and so
5 forth.

6 So at paragraph 58, about midway through the paragraph,
7 it states:

8

9 These types of mitigating factors were
10 accounted for, however, in the underlying
11 premise for a three-year starting-point
12 sentence as outlined in Sandercock." The
13 starting point of three years presumed a
14 mature accused with no criminal record and
15 prior good character.

16

17 At paragraph 59, the Court of Appeal says:

18

19 Moreover, the court in Sandercock stated:

20

21 Goes on to talk about a secondary category where the
22 attack is planned and deliberate.

23 In their review of the sentencing judge's decision to
24 send Mr. Borkowsky to the penitentiary for three years, at
25 paragraph 62, they conclude that:

26

27 In the end, she, being the sentencing judge,
28 balanced the mitigating factors of the
29 absence of a criminal record, age, lack of
30 danger and employment with the aggravating
31 factors of premeditation, calculation, breach
32 of trust, lack of remorse and failure to take

1 any sexual offender counselling since the
2 incident four years previous. She goes on to
3 conclude that it warranted a sentence of
4 greater two - than two years.

5

6 And at paragraph 63, the court says:

7

8 She was entitled to find that in this case
9 the aggravating factors outweighed the
10 mitigating ones. A conditional sentence
11 would not adequately reflect the need for
12 deterrence and denunciation posed by the
13 facts.

14

15 So in that case, My Lord can see that there was an
16 argument that went to the Appeal Court about the application
17 of Sandercock and about where and how mitigating factors,
18 such as lack of a criminal, the fact that an accused is
19 employed and so forth, how that should be accounted for in
20 terms of Sandercock and it's application.

21 I would submit that when you look at Borkowsky, the
22 paragraph in Wright, which is a very recent decision that I
23 just read to you, it's quite clear that in this and other
24 cases - I obviously didn't bring every case, I can provide
25 the court with other citations if - if the court would find
26 that helpful - but Sandercock certainly has been applied, it
27 has been applied in our jurisdiction. Again, not for the
28 proposition that three years is a sentence that's set in
29 stone, but that it's a guideline, it's a starting point and
30 from there the court will adjust for mitigating and
31 aggravating factors. The mitigating factors that My Lord
32 may see in this particular case are accounted for, in my

1 respectful submission, in the guideline already set by
2 Sandercock.

3 In terms of mitigating factors, in my submission there
4 are no mitigating facts. In terms of mitigating
5 circumstances, what you have is the lack of prior criminal
6 record. One of things that will be important for the court
7 to consider will be the Pre-Sentence Report that is before
8 you. The probation officer assessed Mr. Rhodes assessed
9 that he was not a high risk to reoffend.

10 I make a number of points to My Lord in - in
11 disagreement with that overall statement given the lack of
12 remorse present, the lack of acknowledgment or apparent
13 understanding from Mr. Rhodes that he did anything wrong,
14 Mr. Rhodes lack of knowing and understanding that a woman is
15 not encouraging him sexually because of what she wears or
16 the fact that she's been drinking or gets into a vehicle
17 with him. This displays that Mr. Rhodes is an individual
18 that has little respect for women. This was evident, in my
19 submission, from his attitude displayed by his comment
20 during his attack on the victim that it would "only hurt for
21 a little while". And I draw to My Lord's attention that in
22 testimony Mr. Rhodes characterized that as a sort of a
23 stupid comment that he had made and he acknowledged making
24 it, but said it was just something stupid he had said. A
25 comment that displays that he does not recognize the
26 dominating and threatening nature of that comment to C.P.,
27 under the circumstances at hand. He just sees it as
28 something stupid he said.

29 Also relevant and something that I would ask the court
30 to consider when you sentence Mr. Rhodes is that there has
31 apparently, as far as the Crown is aware, been no sexual
32 offending treatment undertaken by the accused. We therefore

1 have an uncertain prognosis for the future. Also of concern
2 is the lack of any explanation for the offending behaviour
3 leaving the court, in my respectful submission, really in
4 the dark as to the risk presented by the accused and what
5 may have motivated the accused to behave in the manner that
6 he did.

7 Concerns of that nature were alive and relevant to the
8 sentencing court in the sentence of Dalas Broekaert. That
9 is at tab four the Crown's supplementary book of materials.
10 And in paragraphs 20 and 27 of that decision, you can see
11 that this issue was relevant to the sentencing judge. At
12 paragraph 20, the appellate court in reviewing the sentence
13 that was imposed on - on Mr. Broekaert for a major sexual
14 assault, it says:

15

16 Of major concern to the sentencing judge was
17 the absence of any explanation for the
18 appellant's conduct.

19

20 It goes on to say:

21

22 She had placed little weight on the medical
23 evidence filed on his behalf and commented
24 that nothing had been provided to her about
25 the proposed treatment for the appellant's
26 alcohol addiction.

27

28 At paragraph 27, the Court of Appeal in upholding the
29 lengthy penitentiary sentence that had been imposed on Mr.
30 Broekaert says:

31

1 The sentencing judge carefully considered all
2 the applicable principles for sentencing and
3 all relevant factors. In so doing, she took
4 into account the mitigating factors with
5 respect to the appellant. While the
6 appellant's rehabilitation was a factor in
7 sentencing, she focused primarily on the
8 principles of deterrence, denunciation, and
9 the protection of the public. She was right
10 to do so, given the nature of the appellant's
11 unexplained violence, his history of severe
12 alcoholism and blackouts, coupled with his
13 minimal treatment to date and the lack of
14 evidence with respect to his prognosis.

15
16 The Court: In that - that case was an
17 aggravated assault.

18 S. Seesahai: It was, yes. And - and the point
19 being that in Broekaert, although - I believe Mr. Broekaert
20 had somewhat of a limited criminal record, he didn't have a
21 history of committing sex offences or sex crimes. He had no
22 similar history. He then went out and committed a, really
23 what can only be described as a - a horrifying sexual
24 assault on a woman. And at the time of sentencing, this was
25 a factor that was alive enough concern to the court. I
26 filed this case, not because of the facts - it's in fact not
27 - it's a more serious charge and - and the facts are not
28 similar, but because what you have before you is a similar
29 concern. You've got a - a Pre-Sentence Report that says Mr.
30 Rhodes doesn't have any problems with drinking. He --

31 The Court: (Inaudible). It says we put him
32 through a couple of tests - whatever the word. This looks

1 like a one off. It doesn't look like it'll happen again as
2 he has a - a difficulty in this activity. That's what the
3 Pre-Sentence Report says. What do you say about that
4 portion of it?

5 S. Seesahai: I would say that that in itself
6 should concern the court with respect to the risk that Mr.
7 Rhodes may present --

8 The Court: Why?

9 S. Seesahai: -- in the future to the public.

10 The Court: Why if --

11 S. Seesahai: Because there's no explanation for
12 how he could possibly have thought that this was acceptable
13 behaviour. He committed a major sexual assault with no
14 apparent prior history of such behaviour. This isn't
15 somebody who, for example; as we see in some of the cases,
16 has a long standing drug or alcohol addiction that coloured
17 their behaviour on the night in question. You heard
18 testimony from him in terms of his attitude about what had
19 happened.

20 The Court: (Inaudible).

21 S. Seesahai: It doesn't appear that this is a
22 situation where Mr. Rhodes was so drunk he didn't know what
23 he was doing. None of those factors are present. All of
24 those or similar findings to those were found by the court
25 in Borkowsky. It was inexplicable why he had gone out and
26 done that. And that was a concern to the court. You
27 don't have before you, as far as I'm aware, a report from a
28 doctor or a psychologist or psychiatrist evaluating this and
29 giving you with sort of medical backdrop, risk assessment of
30 Mr. Rhodes. You had, as was in Borkowsky, an inexplicable
31 crime that was committed. It has to concern the court in
32 terms of what he may do in the future.

1 And again - again, I'm not disputing the - the findings
2 in the Pre-Sentence Report. What I'm asking the court to do
3 is consider the other comments that I have - have made to
4 the court about comments that Mr. Rhodes made during his
5 testimony and the lack of explanation for the offending
6 behaviour.

7 And again, just to return to the case law that the
8 Crown did file in - in this matter. I do submit that there
9 is appellate agreement that approximately three year
10 penitentiary sentence is a starting point or guideline with
11 respect to a major sexual assault. It does presume a mature
12 offender of good character, with no prior criminal record.
13 All characteristics which fit the accused, Kenneth Rhodes.

14 Arcand itself is a good example of the application of
15 Sandercock in relation to that accused. Arcand was young.
16 He was 18 year old. His rape of a sleeping distant relative
17 merited two years less a day of jail. Ultimately the court,
18 in Arcand, when they reviewed that 90 day intermittent
19 sentence and found that it was unfit started with the three
20 year point.

21 And there were factors in - in Mr. Arcand's case that
22 merited a downward departure. And those were his youth; he
23 was very young, his immaturity at the time of the offence,
24 there was a possible neurological deficit or a cognitive
25 issue. Mr. Arcand had sought counselling immediately after
26 the offence. He had had a very troubled childhood and he
27 had sought counselling; sex offender and sex offender
28 related counselling. And had served his 90 day intermittent
29 sentence, had completed counselling and all of that. At the
30 time that the court imposed the two year sentence, they of
31 course, stayed the execution of that sentence given that
32 he'd already served his full sentence. But it is a good

1 example of what types of factors would merit a downward
2 departure from the three year starting point and what types
3 of factors would not.

4 Again, it's my respectful submission that you have
5 before you a mature offender of good character with no
6 previous criminal record. Those are not factors that would
7 merit a downward departure from Sandercock.

8 You also have to consider in the sentence that you
9 impose whether there are aggravating circumstances. And I
10 went through a number of those at the beginning of my
11 submission. It is the Crown's respectful submission that
12 there are a number of aggravating factors the court will
13 have to consider, including the fact that C.P. was injured
14 on her back and so forth. I won't go through all of those
15 factors again, but I ask My Lord to pay close attention to
16 those.

17 In - in terms of the case law filed by my learned
18 friend, I don't intend to make too many lengthy comments
19 about that. I do note - if I can just have a moment to get
20 my booklet here. Two of the cases that my learned friend
21 filed being Nikkanen and Killam.

22 The Court: What tabs?

23 S. Seesahai: Oh, I'm sorry. (Inaudible) got the
24 book there. Killam is at tab one.

25 The Court: Right.

26 S. Seesahai: Of his materials. And Nikkanen is
27 at tab three.

28 The Court: Right.

29 S. Seesahai: In both of those decisions, I - I
30 just draw to - to my Lord's attention the dates of those
31 decisions. They are, at this point, quite dated and they
32 were decisions where courts had seen fit to impose

1 conditional sentences on accused persons. I would like to
2 draw to My Lord's attention in the Killam case - can I - in
3 the Killam case, which is the tab one case of my learned
4 friend's materials, the - the court in that case - the case
5 is more so, in my respectful submission, an application of
6 Shropsure (phonetic) and those principles about deference to
7 the trial judge's decision. And in the end, they upheld the
8 decision that the judge had made. But at paragraph 14, --

9 The Court: Yeah.

10 S. Seesahai: -- Justice Doherty said:

11

12 I admit to considerable doubt as to whether a
13 conditional sentence could adequately reflect
14 the gravity of this offence and send the
15 proper denunciatory message to the public.

16

17 It goes on to say that - that there is deference. And
18 he also finds that it necessary to say at paragraph 16:

19

20 I must stress, I am not suggesting that a
21 conditional sentence should become the norm
22 in cases like this one. Far from it. My
23 reasons should be taken only as indicating
24 that in the circumstances of this case, a
25 conditional sentence was not outside the
26 broad range of sentences available to the
27 trial judge. I do not suggest that other
28 sentences, particular a significant term of
29 imprisonment, would have been inappropriate.
30 Indeed, I might go so far as to say a period
31 of incarceration would have been more
32 appropriate.

1

2 The Court: It's a problem with appellate cases
3 on sentencing, they're really not - they're really not
4 saying generally; this one does, what we would have done had
5 it been us. They are just saying; is it so far out of the
6 range that makes it inappropriate.

7 S. Seesahai: Correct. And again, this, when you
8 look at the date of that case and the sentences that were
9 available at that time, still Justice Doherty is making
10 those comments. And he chooses to stress those comments.

11 The other --

12 The Court: But implicit in that is it's not so
13 far out of line that I feel obliged to interfere with it.

14 S. Seesahai: In that case.

15 The Court: In that case, yeah.

16 S. Seesahai: In that case specifically. My
17 learned friend also filed S.(J.S.), a Manitoba Court of
18 Appeal decision, that's --

19 The Court: Right.

20 S. Seesahai: -- at tab four of his materials.
21 This was a case where the accused had been sentenced - he
22 was a 20 year old male. I would suggest good - good -
23 apparently good character, no criminal record, university
24 student, member of the varsity wrestling team, volunteer
25 wrestling coach. He was sentenced to 30 months of
26 imprisonment for a sexual assault, a major sexual assault.
27 And he appealed that decision arguing that a conditional
28 sentence would have been fit. This is in 2001. Again, the
29 legislative scheme is different. Based on those facts,
30 which again, was a major sexual assault, the - the court -
31 Justice Twaddle is his reasons stated that:

32

1 The accused appeal from sentence would be
2 dismissed.

3

4 That result was concurred in by Justice Monnin. So
5 this is the majority decision with respect to the sentence.
6 Justice Twaddle said:

7

8 With respect to the sentence appeal, I find
9 it to have no merit.

10

11 This is at paragraph 35.

12

13 Given the enormity of the accused crime I
14 would have thought a sentence less than a
15 penitentiary term would have been an error in
16 principle. The accused may well have led an
17 exemplary life up to this incident, be a low
18 risk of reoffending and a good candidate for
19 total rehabilitation, all as noted by the
20 trial judge, but the objectives of
21 denunciation and general deterrence could not
22 possibly be met, in my opinion, by sentence
23 of less than two years imprisonment. Equally
24 given what the trial judge called his
25 "offensive and demeaning behaviour"
26 significant amount of moral blame worthiness,
27 which she attached to it, I do not think a
28 lesser sentence would have been proportionate
29 to the gravity of the offence of the accused
30 degree of responsibility for it.

31

1 And again, that was a set of facts where this wrestling
2 coach, no prior history, had gone into the room and engaged
3 in vaginal sexual intercourse with a woman who had passed
4 out or - or fallen asleep from intoxication approximately a
5 half hour before. Occurred in, I believe, it was the bed a
6 roommate.

7 And again, there was no prior history. So it - it
8 certainly, in my submission, supports the Crown's contention
9 that when we're dealing with a major sexual assault, the
10 appropriate sentence that will satisfy all of the sentencing
11 objectives that I - I spoke about earlier and that will
12 place priority on the appropriate objectives being
13 denunciation and - and deterrence, both specific and
14 general, can only be met by a substantial penitentiary
15 sentence. Now Sandercock talks about three years. Again,
16 this is a - a guideline, a number that has been supported in
17 our Province. But again, My Lord will have to adjust that
18 in terms of aggravating and mitigating factors. Again, I
19 can not find any mitigating factors that would, according to
20 the case law, reduce that sentence.

21 The Court: Is alcohol a mitigating factor?

22 S. Seesahai: No. And that's made quite clear in
23 the case law. I can - I'm sorry, was My Lord talking about
24 alcohol use by the accused or by?

25 The Court: By the accused.

26 S. Seesahai: By the accused. No, it is not a
27 mitigating factor. That was made quite clear right from the
28 time of Sandercock and has been reiterated in Arcand.

29 Just to summarizing all of that, I'll just read to you
30 paragraph 36. This is where they're summarizing --

31 The Court: Oh - of?

1 S. Seesahai: -- their findings. In the
2 circumstances --

3 The Court: Which case?

4 D. Gray: Which case is it?

5 S. Seesahai: Sandercock. I'm sorry, your Honour.

6 The Court: And paragraph?

7 S. Seesahai: That is at tab one of the Crown's
8 supplementary book of materials. And I (inaudible) --

9 D. Gray: Two (inaudible).

10 S. Seesahai: On two. Sorry, two.

11 The Court: Sorry.

12 S. Seesahai: Tab two.

13 The Court: What are you - what are you
14 referring me to?

15 S. Seesahai: And I'm at paragraph 36 --

16 The Court: Sandercock.

17 S. Seesahai: -- of the decision. So it's really
18 right at the end of the decision. It talked about it
19 earlier in the decision. It may be better if we start at
20 paragraph number 27. This is sort of the clearest statement
21 in the case.

22

23 Drunkenness generally should not be a
24 mitigating factor. Nonetheless, the fact that
25 an assault is totally spontaneous can offer
26 mitigation, sometimes drunkenness is a factor
27 in determining whether the attack is
28 spontaneous or whether the likely
29 consequences were fully appreciated.

30

1 At paragraph 36, summarizing it. They talk in this
2 case about the victim being imprudent as to her own safety.
3 I suppose that was suggested. The paragraph says:

4
5 In the circumstances of this case, it could
6 be said that the victim was imprudent as to
7 her own safety. This does not, however, offer
8 the slightest mitigation. Nor is the
9 drunkenness of the accused relevant except in
10 support of the argument that the attack was
11 spontaneous. Nor can Sandercock claim that he
12 previously had good character nor that he
13 spared the victim the added pain of offering
14 testimony. In the circumstances, any claim of
15 remorse rings hollowly.

16
17 Sandercock again, was a guilty plea and he was
18 sentenced to four and a half years for the major sexual
19 assault. So back in 1986, starting in that decision, the
20 court made that clear. That is reiterated as well in
21 Arcand.

22 So I would submit to the court that it is not a
23 mitigating factor in this case except insofar as your
24 Lordship may find that this was a spontaneous --

25 The Court: Spontaneous.

26 S. Seesahai: -- event. But not a mitigating
27 factor in the typical sense that we would --

28 The Court: What about the signals that were
29 given by the complainant, and I know for - I know what her
30 purpose was, but the fact is they were given, as they walked
31 up the road to the highway. Is that - are those mitigating
32 factors?

1 S. Seesahai: No, your Honour, because the major
2 sexual assault occurred after that. And the major sexual
3 assault occurred after - after that had happened and in
4 addition, after she had made her - her feelings clear. Your
5 Honour, I mean, I'm sorry, My Lord found as a fact that the
6 offence did occur while she was on her back.

7 The Court: Right.

8 S. Seesahai: On the side of a highway. So she's
9 placed on her back and while he is digitally penetrating her
10 --

11 The Court: Right.

12 S. Seesahai: -- she indicates that there is
13 pain. She asks if he's going to kill her. He tells her it
14 will only hurt for a little while. I would respectfully
15 submit that the behaviour leading up to the highway or - or
16 on the walk on the way to the highway at that point doesn't
17 mitigate his further conduct from that point.

18 The Court: Okay.

19 S. Seesahai: I also would just refer My Lord to
20 Ewanchuk - Ewanchuk. It's not a case that I filed, but
21 Ewanchuk is, of course the - the seminal case supporting the
22 proposition that, of course, no means no. I also discussed,
23 in my trial argument, the fact that passivity and that sort
24 of thing doesn't alleviate the need for the accused to make
25 inquiries, it doesn't --

26 The Court: And that goes to conviction. The
27 question I have though, is does it - does it enter the mix
28 anywhere on sentence?

29 S. Seesahai: Does it enter.

30 The Court: It's one thing - the fact that a
31 complainant is passive does not satisfy the - does not act
32 as some sort of a defence - does not satisfy the consent

1 issue. And if there's no consent then there's a conviction.
2 So then you come to sentencing. And - and (inaudible) there
3 may be circumstances which are ruled out for conviction that
4 may have some bearing. I don't know how much, but some
5 bearing on sentence. The fact that she didn't say no, at
6 any time, is not a defence to the conviction. But does it
7 add anything; is it part of the sentencing consideration?

8 S. Seesahai: I'd respectfully submit that it's
9 not My Lord. And in - in terms of my answer to this
10 particular issue that My Lord has raised, I would like to
11 refer you again back to the Arcand case. Beginning at
12 paragraph 290 of that decision. And in this part of the
13 decision - Arcand was a situation where Mr. Arcand had
14 sexually assaulted his relative while she was asleep. So it
15 was a case of where there's certainly no question that she
16 couldn't have said --

17 The Court: Right.

18 S. Seesahai: -- you know no or anything else.

19 The Court: Right.

20 S. Seesahai: She was not conscious. At
21 paragraph 290 and going on to 291, the court is talking
22 about this. At 291, I'll refer you to. It says:

23

24 With respect to intoxication, the seriousness
25 of a sexual assault is not lowered because an
26 offender was intoxicated by drugs or alcohol
27 while committing it. It should not generally
28 be a mitigating factor in sentence.

29

30 So that goes to the other arguments --

31 The Court: Right.

1 S. Seesahai: -- that we were having. But
2 certainly - Arcand is quite clear setting out that - in that
3 case the fact that Mr. Arcand had sexually assaulted an
4 unconscious woman was an aggravating factor. That --

5 The Court: Right.

6 S. Seesahai: -- mer - merited an increase.
7 That's someone who couldn't possibly have said no. So I -
8 I'm finding it difficult to understand how it would assist
9 the accused in this case that she didn't say or do anything
10 to make him stop.

11 The Court: Well, it's not --

12 S. Seesahai: In the sense of - of words. Like
13 saying no that you're suggesting.

14 The Court: It's not so much just that. But
15 it's what - what concern I have is the - is the conduct on
16 the highway - on the road leading up. And I think when I
17 made the decision; I found that at that point in time there
18 was no intention on the accused to sexually assault the
19 lady. And there was a possibility out there - the door
20 wasn't closed and --

21 S. Seesahai: Which - which door is My Lord
22 speaking --

23 The Court: The door to any kind of sexual
24 conduct was no closed as they were walking up to the
25 highway.

26 S. Seesahai: I guess I'm just - perhaps I'm
27 misunderstanding what My Lord is saying.

28 The Court: If you look at Arcand, there's one
29 sentence at paragraph 13 that says:

30

31 The sentencing judge found that prior to
32 passing out, the complainant had done nothing

1 to encourage the offender to have sex with
2 her.

3

4 Now in this case, and I'm not critical of the
5 complainant, I understand she was frightened, but she did
6 something, he said - he made some comment about sexual
7 activity and she said; let's go to the highway.

8 S. Seesahai: Yes and My Lord did find that she
9 said that because she was afraid of him.

10 The Court: Yeah. It's - there is - can I take
11 that into account in sentencing in this case?

12 S. Seesahai: No, My Lord. I would suggest that
13 there's - I do want to respond to this issue as I can see
14 it's an issue that's pertinent to the - to the court and My
15 Lord wants an answer from the Crown. If we may take a brief
16 recess at this point, I'd like to formulate an argument --

17 The Court: Can - can you - are you almost
18 done? Why don't we finish and then we'll break and then you
19 can deal with it in the break.

20 S. Seesahai: After the break?

21 The Court: After the break.

22 S. Seesahai: Yes.

23 The Court: But finish first.

24 S. Seesahai: Yes. Just go back to my notes
25 here. Just moving on with the case law then that I had
26 filed My Lord. Again, the case of Shalley is another case
27 from our jurisdiction of a major sexual assault. This is a
28 rape of a - a woman passed out at a party. Somewhat similar
29 on the facts to Arcand, I suppose. The appropriate sentence
30 on that case, on a guilty plea, for an offender of good
31 character, who expressed remorse, was two to three years
32 imprisonment. The important factor there, in the Crown's

1 submission, is that it was a plea bargain situation and
2 that's made clear in the case. So it was a guilty plea,
3 there was an expression of remorse and it was given to the
4 judge as a plea bargain.

5 This case, Arcand and other cases are cases where we
6 have accused persons committing sexual assaults on - on
7 woman who are sleeping or passed out intoxicated and
8 vulnerable for those reasons.

9 And I know that there is some discussion in the case
10 law about ranges for that particular type of offence. That
11 happens in the case of White, from the Yukon Supreme Court.
12 That's at tab three of - of the supplementary book of
13 authorities. And I would respectfully suggest that again,
14 when My Lord imposes a sentence it's important to go back to
15 the principles, the facts of the specific case and - and the
16 sentencing procedure that I laid out at the outset. I would
17 submit that it's not a particularly useful exercise to parse
18 differences between when victims of sexual assault are - are
19 sleeping or passed out and victims that are conscious in
20 terms of trying to determine if - if one is worse or - or
21 merits more time or less time. Here --

22 The Court: Why - why not?

23 S. Seesahai: -- we don't have someone who was --

24 The Court: But why - why not?

25 S. Seesahai: -- sleeping. But we have a woman
26 who was awake. We have a woman who is experiencing her pain
27 and her fear. She expresses both to the offender, who goes
28 on to pull her to a standing position and - and rape her
29 vaginally and perform cunillingus on her.

30 So in terms of the court evaluating what is worse that,
31 at the end of the day, I would submit is somewhat of an
32 academic exercise that's not helpful. What you have to look

1 at is what is aggravating, what is mitigating. If you
2 accept that Sandercock - that he committed a major sexual
3 assault and that the guideline is a three year starting
4 point, how are these various factors going to adjust that
5 starting point, if at all.

6 So I - I acknowledge that some of the cases that are
7 filed are women who were - back to our discussion that we
8 had a few moments ago - not even in a position to be awake
9 or to experience the moment of the penetration of their
10 body. That's why the decision in Arcand is so important in
11 - in how it lays out that a major sexual assault is a major
12 sexual assault. (Inaudible) is intrinsic. Whether or not
13 the woman is awake and experience - experiencing it, in my
14 view, is really somewhat six of one and half a dozen of the
15 other. The harm that that woman experiences is the same.
16 The moral culpability - culpability of the offender, while
17 there might be some sort of hairsplitting differences, is
18 really quite similar. They're committing a major sexual
19 assault; penetration of the complainant's body.

20 Here you have those issues in relation to what may have
21 happened leading up to the road, but you have in a - a woman
22 who is awake and experiencing moment to moment the rape of
23 her body. She's so traumatized by what happens that she
24 runs away with no pants in the middle of nowhere, into the
25 woods. She's trying to flag down cars while she's not even
26 dressed. She experienced things that a passed out woman
27 wouldn't have. So either way, it's a major sexual assault.

28 If My Lord accepts that the guideline that I have
29 suggested applies and is relevant in our jurisdiction, I
30 would suggest that overall the factors that we have here
31 aggravate the situation beyond what one had in Shalley, for

1 example; where it's my understanding that she was asleep or
2 intoxicated.

3 This is a very serious rape case. It's a very serious
4 sexual assault. The harm to the complainant can't be
5 underestimated and - and it's that harm that the Alberta
6 Court of Appeal talks about when they make their lengthy
7 comments about major sexual assault and why harm is
8 presumed.

9 I still want to find the comment in McCraw because it
10 speaks to this issue.

11 But in any event, looking at all of the case law and
12 every case obviously has to be sentenced on it's own facts.
13 Sentencing is an individualized process. The cases that are
14 filed provide some - some guidance. They're precedential in
15 - in that - in that sense. But I certainly would suggest to
16 the court that the overwhelming weight of the authority
17 suggests that a penitentiary sentence is called for in this
18 case.

19 And I've already, I believe, gone through my submission
20 that I believe there is appellate agreement that a
21 penitentiary - a three year penitentiary sentence is a
22 starting point guideline. I don't see any downward
23 departure from that number. And in fact, I see aggravating
24 circumstances; injuries to the victim's body and the other
25 aggravating circumstances that I laid out at the beginning
26 of my submission.

27 So for those reasons, I would suggest, your Honour - My
28 Lord, that what you're looking at is the three year
29 penitentiary sentence guideline and adjusting from there if
30 there are appropriate factors that, in your view, would
31 reduce that, mitigating factors in favour of the accused. I

1 do not see any. And the aggravating factors in the case are
2 numerous.

3 I would submit that a penitentiary sentence in excess
4 of the three year starting point is called for in this case
5 for the reasons that I've already laid out.

6 Now we are also seeking certain ancillary orders.

7 The Court: Right.

8 S. Seesahai: We are seeking the DN - DNA order.
9 It's a primary designated offence. Section 487 of the
10 Criminal Code. We are also seeking an order under Section
11 490 of the Criminal Code that the accused be registered
12 under the Sexual Offender Registry for a term of 20 years.

13 The Court: Just a sec.

14 S. Seesahai: That's 490.013(2)(b) of the
15 Criminal Code.

16 The Court: 490.013.

17 S. Seesahai: Point 013(2)(b).

18 The Court: And - and is that in any way
19 discretionary or is that automatic on a conviction for this
20 offence?

21 S. Seesahai: That's automatic. And in addition
22 --

23 The Court: And that's - that's registration on
24 the Sexual Offender --

25 S. Seesahai: Sexual Offender Registry. Yes. We
26 are also suggesting that --

27 The Court: For - for 20 years.

28 S. Seesahai: Yes.

29 D. Coggan: What section, sorry?

30 D. Gray: 490.

31 The Court: Point 013(2)(b).

1 S. Seesahai: Section 109(1) (a) of the Criminal
2 Code also applies. There is a mandatory weapons
3 prohibition.

4 The Court: What was the section again?

5 S. Seesahai: 109.

6 The Court: Just - any subsection numbers?

7 S. Seesahai: Sub 1, sub a, I believe it is.

8 The Court: It's a mandatory.

9 S. Seesahai: Weapons prohibition.

10 The Court: Weapons or firearms?

11 S. Seesahai: Firearms, I'm sorry. Yes.

12 Prohibition, which is mandatory. It's firearms, crossbows,
13 explosive substances, prohibited devices and so forth. And
14 that is a mandatory order.

15 The Court: Right.

16 S. Seesahai: My Lord, subject to the other issue
17 that I'll address after the break, the other comments that I
18 would leave My Lord with are that in terms of whether or not
19 my learned friend wants to make any comments about Gladue,
20 we would like to respond in - in terms of --

21 D. Coggan: No.

22 S. Seesahai: -- whether there's --

23 The Court: There's no Gladue consideration.

24 S. Seesahai: It doesn't look like he's raising
25 any Gladue component. The second thing is if My Lord is
26 contemplating any sentence of less than two years
27 imprisonment - two years or less imprisonment --

28 The Court: Right.

29 S. Seesahai: -- for the accused, probation
30 orders would, of course, attach and we would like to respond
31 in terms of conditions that we would deem appropriate.
32 We've, of course, taken the position that --

1 The Court: That's not appropriate.

2 S. Seesahai: -- a penitentiary sentence is
3 called for. But just to reserve the right to respond in
4 terms of conditions that we may wish to suggest.

5 The Court: In the event I was disposed in that
6 direction.

7 S. Seesahai: Yes. And I would like to respond
8 to the other issue that is pressing on My Lord's mind after
9 the recess. Thank you.

10 The Court: Alright. We'll let's take our -
11 our morning break. 15 minutes.

12 D. Gray: Yes, My Lord.

13 S. Seesahai: Yes. Thank you.

14 The Court: And then we'll hear from you and
15 then Mr. Coggan.

16

17 (RECESS)

18

19 D. Gray: My Lord, with the court's
20 indulgence I expect to respond to your inquiry with respect
21 to mitigation of behaviour - mitigation virtue - by virtue
22 of behaviour of the complainant from the area by the lake up
23 through the road to the - to the highway.

24 The Court: Right.

25 D. Gray: With the greatest of respect, I
26 suggest that no mitigation to the accused is available in
27 those circumstances. And I say that for two separate but
28 related reasons.

29 Firstly, one of the findings that I believe you made
30 was that there had been at least three independent indicia
31 of rebuffing of the accused prior to that circumstance.
32 There was a specific rebuffing in the car, there was a

1 certain coldness, as described even by the accused, and
2 there was the fact that she'd gone off into the bush. Those
3 indicia would not have led a reasonable person to believe
4 that there was a reasonable likelihood of behaviour after
5 that.

6 Your Lordship, in your decisions, noted the disparity
7 in size, in age and experience of the parties and I say that
8 as the facts are in this case, where a person reasonably
9 causes the fear of another person and that fear acts in a
10 certain way, they do not later get to ask that the court
11 consider that as mitigation.

12 The Court: Where's the fear caused here?

13 D. Gray: The fear is caused by the
14 circumstances of the events where the party - the other -
15 the car and the other parties have left and --

16 The Court: Right.

17 D. Gray: -- she's left there alone with him.

18 The Court: Well didn't cause that.

19 D. Gray: No, no, but he causes - his - he
20 doesn't cause it. His circumstance and his behaviour in
21 continuing to pursue her causes the behaviour. If he'd
22 said, at that point, listen; it's obvious you don't want
23 nothing to do with me, and then she'd thrown herself at him,
24 I think that we may have a different situation. But
25 moreover, she picks up a stick, which is agreed, and that's
26 seems to me not something that a person wouldn't say; hey,
27 that's a bit strange. And for those reasons I say there
28 would not be mitigation even if there wasn't another reason
29 which is related.

30 The Court: Okay.

31 D. Gray: And that is that the relevant time
32 for considering the mitigation isn't in those moments

1 before, but from the time she says no his behaviour
2 continues. And you don't get to borrow backwards from the
3 walk up the roadway and say; oh yes, but I was no enamoured
4 with her that my - that I was out of control and couldn't
5 control myself. Once she has said no or at least there's a
6 reasonable apprehension that she - he should have
7 ascertained that she'd said no, any like - any
8 reasonableness of mitigation is ended.

9 The Court: And then the no - she says no when?

10 D. Gray: When she says no by saying; that
11 hurts.

12 The Court: Okay. That's the time.

13 D. Gray: And - and - at that point,
14 everything after that there's no - and all of the major
15 events happen after that point.

16 The Court: Alright.

17 D. Gray: There is no mitigation. At most,
18 even - even if you don't count those two arguments, and I
19 think both of them are compelling and should be followed My
20 Lord, but even if you didn't follow them, at most, what
21 there is is an absence of aggravation and not mitigation.

22 The Court: Alright.

23 D. Gray: My Lord, those are my (inaudible).

24 The Court: I have one question.

25 D. Gray: Sure.

26 The Court: Another - another question.

27 D. Gray: Either - one of us will answer it.

28 The Court: What's - what disturbs me about
29 this case, is it has taken four years to get to here.

30 D. Gray: I can speak to that.

31 The Court: And - and there was - the charge
32 wasn't even laid for a year and a half, almost maybe a year

1 and three quarters after the event. And all of the evidence
2 was available at that time.

3 D. Gray: I think it was about 15 months.
4 And in fact, I think what happens is there's a complaint
5 early on and then it isn't until March, I believe, that Mr.
6 Lederhous is finally interviewed and it's sometime after
7 that, after our Crown opinion and it just takes some time
8 for that Crown opinion. This was not a case where the
9 police felt comfortable in laying the charge in their own
10 right.

11 The events from that point on are not within the
12 control of the Crown. The - the preliminary inquiry
13 proceeds actually fairly quickly, in the scope of this
14 jurisdiction, after the charges are laid. After that point,
15 there are two separate delays of Queen's Bench trials
16 occasioned by former counsel for the defence. I do not
17 criticize them; I just say that there is nothing to accord
18 difficulty for the Crown.

19 The Court: Right.

20 D. Gray: Those are factors that are related
21 - are unrelated to the Crown's conduct of the case. And
22 while there was some investigative delay, I will concede
23 that and there is a very junior detachment here, in reality
24 nothing turns on that in - with my - with the greatest of
25 respect.

26 The Court: Other than it's all up in the air -
27 -

28 D. Gray: Well --

29 The Court: -- for anybody facing these kinds
30 of charges for longer than it probably should.

1 D. Gray: Right. Except that he was - he
2 wasn't in fact facing the charges - I mean I guess he knew
3 they were out there, but there was no charge extant.

4 The Court: Alright.

5 D. Coggan: My Lord, thank my friend for their
6 submissions, but I will say that I believe that they were,
7 in my submission, an absurd misstatement of the facts as you
8 found them. And that your reasons for decision were very
9 cogently thought out and demonstrated what occurred on that
10 night. And you say in your decision that this occurred on
11 the highway and became a lapse of judgment on his part and I
12 believe that that is the correct statement of these facts in
13 this case and that my friend has misstated what took place
14 on the night in question with her inflammatory comments.

15 I say that, in going through your decision My Lord
16 where you term this basically that the complainant
17 experienced unwanted sexual relations and - that's on page
18 one of your decision - and you point out that the accused
19 pleaded not guilty in this case because he believed that she
20 consented to this. And that was the issue that came to
21 court.

22 You describe both of their judgments being affected by
23 alcohol, on page three, and that was clear from the - your
24 reasons from decision throughout that - in your comments to
25 my friend that you were asking if alcohol was a mitigating
26 factor, I think you've - you seen what the comments are in
27 the case law is that it's not mitigating, but it's a - it's
28 the surrounding circumstances. Did the alcohol affect the
29 spontaneous nature of this event? Did they affect Mr.
30 Rhodes judgment? Clearly they did. And clearly your Honour
31 found that. I don't say that that's mitigating, but it's a

1 factual circumstance of the case that you should consider
2 obviously and you have in your reasons for decision.

3 You talk in your reasons for decision, your Lordship,
4 that at various times during the night that you had
5 difficulty accepting the complainant's version that she made
6 her discomfort known and that was with regard to what my
7 friend said was her rebuffing him in the car, at page five
8 of your decision. So again, it's another indication that
9 there were some factual problems. That Mr. Rhodes did not
10 know that there was not - no consent until we got to the
11 highway, which is when your Honour found that he was guilty
12 of the - of the offence.

13 The Court: Well, I - I think she did rebuff
14 him - I think I found she did rebuff him in the backseat of
15 the car.

16 D. Coggan: Yeah.

17 The Court: I don't know whether, and it really
18 doesn't matter to me whether it was before they made their
19 stop or - or after.

20 D. Coggan: Correct. Yes. Yeah. And then at
21 the end of your decision or page 14 --

22 The Court: Right.

23 D. Coggan: -- you talk about the apparently
24 consensual actions of the complainant and whether or not
25 they demonstrated consent. What we're talking about in all
26 this, My Lord, is what did the accused know at the time. It
27 - it's apparent that the complainant in this case was
28 traumatized by what took place. But she had a very
29 different understanding of what was in the accused mind that
30 night then the accused did. And I think that comes clear as
31 well in your - in your reasons for decision as well.

1 And you - you quote from Ewanchuk, page 15 of your
2 decision, and you talk about the fact that the common law
3 recognizes a defence of mistake of fact, which removes
4 culpability for honest but mistaken belief that they had
5 consent to touch. And as such, later on in that paragraph,
6 being reckless or wilfully blind to a lack of consent takes
7 away his defence. And in that case, that's what you found
8 here I believe. That's my understanding of your reasons for
9 decision.

10 And you say at page 16th - page 16, that if the accused
11 did not take reasonable steps to ascertain that the
12 complainant is consenting, the defence does not apply. And
13 that was your reason for finding the guilt in this case My
14 Lord.

15 For my friend to characterize this as a situation that
16 was well beyond the control of the complainant. They were
17 all in the same circumstance. They went out to the lake, as
18 you said in you decision, there had to be some twinkling in
19 their mind that this was for sexual purposes, they were
20 going swimming in the lake. So was this beyond her control?
21 She was with a friend. It's an overstatement of who had
22 control of the situation. All four of these people went out
23 to the lake freely and all four of them had apparently
24 different ideas and motives as to what was going to take
25 place.

26 You also, in your reasons for decision, indicate that
27 there was a demonstrated willingness on the gravel road to
28 hold onto him and kiss him and pretend to like him that
29 could surely leave an impression that the door was then not
30 closed to further sexual activity. You - you've commented
31 on that in my friend's submissions as well. You note that
32 there was no evidence that there were any threats or

1 excessive advances made by the accused and that the accused
2 was not aware of the complainant's fear of him and that he
3 honestly believed that increased sexual activity was still a
4 possibility.

5 You then say at page 20, of your decision, that
6 notwithstanding that the complainant gave no overt signals
7 to the accused that the conduct which was to occur and which
8 subsequently occurred was in anyway something she wanted to
9 do.

10 So you've set it out, I think, clearly, factually as to
11 what happened and you've taken a great - taken great
12 consideration to consider what was in the mind of the
13 accused at the time, what he should have known, what he
14 ought to have known and how he acted improperly on the night
15 in question. You say, in page 21, I do not accept that he
16 was especially receptive to any signals which the may have
17 given and therein lies his fault and lies his culpability in
18 this case. You say at page 22, at sentence nine, I conclude
19 that although the accused was led by the circumstances to
20 conclude that sex was in the air, he was insensitive to the
21 fact that the complainant was not a willing participant and
22 then you find that he did not take reasonable steps to
23 verify. For - later on in the paragraph, forging on with
24 the sexual activity on the side of the highway without
25 further inquiry does not satisfy the test of Section 273.2
26 and you mention that.

27 Your final paragraph My Lord, you indicate what I
28 believe is the crux of this case. Perhaps somewhat blinded
29 by his own consumption of alcohol, he did not see the need
30 when they arrived at the highway to be sure that she was a
31 willing participant. And you then say, I'm convinced beyond
32 a reasonable doubt that when they reached the highway the

1 accused failed to take any reasonable steps to ascertain the
2 complainant was consenting to further sexual activity and
3 imposed his will upon her.

4 Now those comments all being said My Lord, the test
5 when you consider sentence is normally twofold. You have to
6 consider the seriousness of the offence and the moral
7 blameworthiness of the offender. My friend has gone to
8 great length to talk about the starting point of Sandercock
9 and three years. There's no dispute that if you find this a
10 major sexual assault, and I'm not going to argue strenuously
11 against that, but ask you to consider the circumstances of
12 this case. Is the fact that there was vaginal penetration
13 sufficient in itself to categorize this as a major sexual
14 assault? Or is this a lapse of judgment on the part of the
15 accused in the context of sexual activity? Was this full
16 sex? Yes. Was it a major sexual assault? I leave that to
17 the court to decide.

18 If you find that that I think is one of two aggravating
19 factors that you can find here. Is that this may have been
20 a major sexual assault and your Lordship is at liberty to
21 make that ruling and make that finding. The second
22 aggravating factor is that Mr. Rhodes did not plead guilty,
23 but My Lord --

24 The Court: That's not an aggravating factor.

25 D. Coggan: It's not an aggravating factor.

26 The Court: It's just not a mitigating factor.

27 D. Coggan: It's - it's a mitigating factor if
28 they plead guilty, yes.

29 The Court: Right.

30 D. Coggan: You're right. I've - I've said
31 that before.

32 The Court: He's entitled to his trial.

1 D. Coggan: Yes, he is. And - and you can see
2 why it went to trial. You pointed out that - and my friend
3 has just admitted that the police had to seek an opinion,
4 they didn't know if they had reasonable and probable grounds
5 to lay this charge. They went to the steps of getting a
6 polygraph to determine, what they don't know because they're
7 not admissible in court, but they got a statement from the
8 accused in trying to pin it down on him and see if they had
9 enough evidence. So you have those factors.

10 As far as mitigating factors, I find it incredulous
11 that my friend says there's no mitigating factors in this
12 case. Mr. Rhodes comes before you with a clean record.
13 He's never been convicted of a criminal offence. He's 40
14 years of age.

15 The Court: I - I think though what they're
16 saying is follow Sandercock and if you look at Sandercock,
17 it says that assumes we're looking at a no record,
18 unblemished --

19 D. Coggan: Yes.

20 The Court: -- unblemished record.

21 D. Coggan: Yeah. But --

22 The Court: So you don't mitigate on something
23 you've already credit for.

24 D. Coggan: Well, --

25 The Court: That's the theory, I think.

26 D. Coggan: Yeah, it - it's a factor, obviously
27 that the court will consider. As far as other mitigating
28 factors, you say in page 19 of your decision as I've already
29 reiterated to you, that there was - there's no evidence that
30 there were any threats or excessive advances made by the
31 accused. Now that's - again, you're talking about when they
32 got out of the car by the lake. But I would submit that on

1 the facts of this case, my friend says that there's physical
2 injuries to her back. She wasn't struck by the accused. She
3 wasn't beaten by him. She was placed on the ground and the
4 gravel and the highway caused some bruising on her back.
5 It's not as though he was violent towards her except for the
6 unwanted sexual act. He did not raise a fist to her. He
7 did not scream at her. He did not yell at her. He did
8 nothing - her fear of him was not brought forth by his
9 actions. It was brought forth by the circumstance of being
10 with a strange man in a strange place. And it's
11 understandable that she had that fear. But was he to know
12 that and is it not mitigating that he did not do anything of
13 physical force in the sense, as I say, inflicting a blow,
14 using a weapon, anything like that. None of that is
15 present.

16 He also, My Lord, and I think this is mitigating and
17 goes to his state of mind, picked up her pants and her shoes
18 and held onto them while he waited for her to come out of
19 the bush. Now that suggests to again to me not a lot of
20 malice on his part towards her. It suggests to me that he's
21 showing some concern for, you know, we got to get back to
22 Thompson, this lady's going to need her clothing.

23 In the morning, when they come back to get the wallet,
24 he again, and My Lord may look at this differently, but I
25 say and Mr. Rhodes' evidence is that he was concerned as to
26 why she was so upset with him the next day. I don't think I
27 could characterize it as being remorseful for what took
28 place, but at that point it shows an indication that he
29 didn't understand that he had hurt her or done anything
30 wrong to her and he ought to have, which is your reasons.
31 He ought to have known that, but he didn't.

1 I also say that this Pre-Sentence Report is an
2 extremely mitigating factor. It shows that you have a man
3 of good character in front of you who understands the
4 criminal law, who has led a fairly exemplary life in keeping
5 his work history for the last few years, in his family
6 relationships, in his relationships with employers. And you
7 can see, through that Pre-Sentence Report, there is no or
8 minimal risk to reoffend as submitted by them.

9 As to the comments about whether or not her misleading
10 him was mitigating, I wouldn't go so far as to say that My
11 Lord. Again, I don't think that's mitigating in his favour,
12 but it's a circumstantial piece of the puzzle that goes to
13 his state of mind at the time of the offence. And in coming
14 to an appropriate sentence, I would ask you to consider that
15 obviously.

16 When looking at the Section 718 of the Criminal Code,
17 My Lord, it is clear in a case like this that denunciation
18 and deterrence must be on your mind. But I think it's also
19 a case where it's difficult to say that denunciation would
20 have much or I'm sorry, not denunciation, deterrence would
21 have much of an affect in this case. It was the
22 circumstances of that evening as it took place. As you've
23 heard, Mr. Rhodes didn't believe he was doing anything wrong
24 at the time. You found that he ought to have known that he
25 was and that he was imposing his will upon her.

26 But this is not, in the sense of the cases that have
27 been presented to you, a predatory crime; it is not a crime
28 where he took advantage of a sleeping woman who had no
29 choice in the matter. And I would say to you that those
30 cases and the cases you have before you scream for
31 deterrence and denunciation. That to victimize a woman who
32 is asleep is the most degrading act of sexual assault other

1 then a violent, violent rape. Is that what we have in this
2 case? We have a man who did not use proper judgment in
3 knowing when to stop his sexual activity on the night in
4 question.

5 And I would suggest that it is not necessary to
6 separate him from society. That some reparation to the
7 victim is obviously appropriate and some rehabilitation may
8 be necessary in the form of counselling to ensure that Mr.
9 Rhodes is considerate to women's needs; a woman's state of
10 mind in situations like this. But I don't believe that a
11 penitentiary sentence is needed to express the court's
12 denunciation of this conduct in this case.

13 My learned friend indicated that she felt there was a
14 number of aggravating factors. I've gone through some of
15 them so I won't go through them all. She says that the Pre-
16 Sentence Report seems to indicate that he has little respect
17 for women. I'd ask your Lordship to read that Pre-Sentence
18 Report. I don't know where that came from.

19 The Court: I didn't - I didn't hear her say
20 that.

21 D. Coggan: She did. I wrote the quote down
22 exactly My Lord and it's --

23 The Court: (Inaudible).

24 D. Coggan: -- one of the reasons I said that
25 it was an inflammatory submission because to suggest that he
26 had little respect for women is just not borne out by this
27 Pre-Sentence Report.

28 She tells me - she told you that another aggravating
29 factor is that he shifted the blame to the victim in his
30 testimony. I'd ask you to consider what Mr. Rhodes, in his
31 mind, was thinking. He was not suggesting that she was to
32 blame for this. He was suggesting that he didn't have the

1 communication given to him to understand what she was
2 feeling and going through that night. He never said that
3 this was her fault. He said that her actions that night
4 confused him and that's not shifting blame. He takes
5 responsibility, accepts your decision, but has difficulty
6 understanding it. That's the best way, I think, to put it.

7 I won't comment, as I - my objection to the comments
8 about the Parliamentary changes My Lord. You made fair
9 comment that we're dealing with an offence from 2006.
10 Parliamentary law is as important as Court of Appeal law.
11 Both are branches of the government and both are owed
12 deference by my friend's office and too often they go to the
13 politics and away from the Court of Appeal, which is
14 reasoned decisions by learned members of the bench. And you
15 have ample Court of Appeals decisions in front of you to
16 take that into consideration.

17 As I said, my friend had indicated that there was no
18 mitigating facts. I've obviously explained those to you.
19 Indicates that - that in the Pre-Sentence Report there is no
20 explanation for the appellant's conduct. And I'm wondering
21 when she said that, what explanation is required. He was
22 out with friends. They went out to a situation which could
23 only be construed as having sexual connotations and his
24 misinterpreted the mindset of the victim in this case.
25 There's your explanation for his conduct. It's very
26 straightforward. I - my friend is looking, in my submission
27 My Lord, for malice where no exists. Mr. Rhodes was no
28 malicious that night. He was sexually aggressive and did
29 not heed the warnings that you say he should have seen and
30 he understands that decision. There's no malice here.
31 There's no extreme aggravating factors in his behaviour.

1 In cases where a victim is sleeping, you heard me
2 indicate that that is a predatory situation. That woman has
3 no say at all. She's woken up to something horrible
4 happening to her. This was a continuation of events on this
5 night. It was not predatory in nature except insofar as, I
6 guess, a man seeking sexual relations with a woman is
7 predatory. But it's not predatory in the - in the sense
8 that he was exhibiting any violent behaviour or anything
9 like that and did not have any consideration for her
10 thoughts or her wellbeing. He did, clearly. He helped her
11 to the road. He picked up her clothes. There was not the
12 malice that my friend is suggesting there was in his
13 behaviour that night.

14 I - My Lord, confess that I was a little shocked this
15 morning when I had some discussions with my friend and the
16 case law that she submitted on each of them, with the
17 exception of two I believe, indicate that sentences of two
18 years imprisonment minus a day are appropriate. And these
19 are cond - these are sentences where in Arcand, the trial
20 judge imposed a 90 day sentence. Was later increased and I
21 - appropriately, I think, that the Court of Appeal obviously
22 made a - a very thoughtful decision in that case. But they
23 didn't sentence him to three years. They sentenced him to
24 two years. In a case where that woman was in - unconscious
25 and intoxicated and, if I recall - I apologize, I didn't
26 highlight whether or not he had a prior record or not, but I
27 believe in most of these cases - he didn't in that case?

28 S. Seesahai: No.

29 D. Coggan: Okay. Maybe that's one of the
30 cases he didn't have a prior record. But that was a
31 decision --

1 The Court: And that was - that was an attack
2 on a sleeping woman.

3 D. Coggan: A sleeping - and - and all of the
4 cases we put to you today, I think, are similar. I confess,
5 I - I searched for something along the lines of wilful
6 blindness, along the lines of lapse of judgment, as we have
7 in this case where he should have made the proper inquiries
8 and I couldn't find anything as far as a sentencing
9 precedent. So My Lord has the burden today, I think, of
10 establishing a new precedent in a case like this.

11 The Court: It's not really a precedent because
12 the law has changed.

13 D. Coggan: True enough. True enough. Perhaps
14 you can consider it a comment on the - this is a situation
15 where I would respectfully submit, minimum sentences don't
16 take into consideration all the factors of an offence, but
17 again, that's a political consideration that I don't want to
18 comment too much on.

19 In the Shalley case, My Lord, again a 90 intermittent
20 sentence, which was increased on appeal to two years less a
21 day. Again, my friend has submitted that and again, that is
22 a case where the accused had non-consensual intercourse who
23 was passed out from intoxication once again.

24 The Court: Right.

25 D. Coggan: The Borkowsky case can be
26 distinguished quite easily by the court, I believe My Lord.
27 Borkowsky is a decision of the Manitoba Court of Appeal.

28 The Court: That's the aggravated assault case.

29 D. Coggan: No, that's Broekaert.

30 S. Seesahai: No, that was Broekaert.

31 The Court: Okay.

1 D. Coggan: Borkowsky is - is similar in some
2 regards to this case in - in that it's a younger woman, an
3 older man, extreme differences in age though. This was the
4 - the workplace incident.

5 The Court: Oh, that was the employer.

6 D. Coggan: Yes. A 66 year old employer --

7 The Court: He's in a position of trust --

8 D. Coggan: Position of trust.

9 The Court: -- with that lady. That young
10 girl.

11 D. Coggan: And that was so predatory. He
12 clearly took her out with the intent --

13 The Court: Yeah.

14 D. Coggan: -- to do something like this.

15 The Court: (Inaudible).

16 D. Coggan: So it is distinguishable, I would
17 submit. The other cases - again, in Wells, at tab one of my
18 friend's supplementary book, received a 20 month jail
19 sentence. The court showed deference to this trial judge in
20 that case. And that accused, I checked the Court of Appeal
21 record, had a two prior assaults on his record. He did not
22 come to court with a clean record as Mr. Rhodes has in this
23 case.

24 The Court: That was Wells?

25 D. Coggan: That's Wells, at tab one, yes.
26 It's not indicated in the Supreme Court case what the
27 accused prior record, but I checked the Court of Appeal case
28 and indicates that he had two prior convictions for assault.

29 The Court: Not sexual assault?

30 D. Coggan: No, not sexual assault, but crimes
31 of violence nonetheless. And as I indicated he was
32 sentenced to 20 months incarceration.

1 Now some of these cases talk about how the accused had
2 done counselling and things of that nature after the offence
3 took place. I ask the court to consider what counselling's
4 necessary in this case; some empathy, obviously for the
5 victim from Mr. Rhodes and an understanding of the roles men
6 and women play in sexual relations; something of that
7 nature. But Mr. Rhodes can not in any way be considered a
8 sexual offender in the sense that he's going to repeat this
9 behaviour. The PSR shows that. It almost suggests that
10 there's no need for counselling. Obviously, I'm not going
11 to suggest that. An offence of this nature has to be spoken
12 about with some people to ensure that it doesn't happen
13 again. I don't think it will happen again in this case.

14 Again, my friend submitted White as a case. That
15 accused was sentenced to 26 months in prison, but had a
16 lengthy criminal record in that case. And again, it was -
17 in that case it was a friend of his who he waited till she
18 was felt - fell asleep and had sexual intercourse with her.
19 And it was - so they indicate in there it's a breach of
20 trust, taking advantage of the victim's condition.

21 And finally, Broekaert. I don't have much to say
22 there. That's an aggravated sexual assault. It's not even
23 closely related to this case. My friend used it for some
24 other purposes so. I understand that. She's not saying the
25 sentence being proposed there is appropriate to this case,
26 but.

27 And I ask you to consider the case law which I have
28 provided to you. I think it is more - a more authoritative,
29 but more relevant to the case which we have before us. It
30 took a look, in each of those cases, at the mitigating
31 factors, aggravating factors and found that conditional
32 sentences can be appropriate. My Lord knows that from the

1 case in Proulx that conditional sentences can address
2 deterrence and denunciation. I don't - I think that's clear
3 from the - from the prior law. And we are speaking of an
4 offence that occurred in 2006 so it is appropriate to
5 consider the conditional sentence.

6 In the case of Killam again, a situation where the
7 victim was passed out and the accused had sexual intercourse
8 with here. A sentence of two years less a day and
9 (inaudible) varied on appeal to a conditional sentence, if I
10 recall correctly. Yes. I'm sorry, was that - I might be
11 misreading.

12 S. Seesahai: I think it was a Crown appeal.

13 D. Coggan: Yeah, that's right. Yeah. Yeah.
14 It was deference to the conditional sentence that was
15 granted at trial or after the incident took place so. So
16 I'm sorry. Basically, - I mean my court - my cases My Lord,
17 stand for the proposition that conditional sentence is
18 available to you. I think it is wholly appropriate in these
19 circumstances. Even in cases where in White, the accused
20 had a record of eight offences, dangerous use of a firearm,
21 impaired driving, there was significantly less mitigating
22 factors in that case then there is in the case of Mr.
23 Rhodes, who comes before you with a clean past.

24 You also have the Nikkanen case from the Court of
25 Appeal in Ontario before you, at tab three. That was a
26 sentence of 18 months incarceration and the sentence was
27 varied to a conditional sentence having a look at all the
28 facts of that case.

29 My main point in giving you S.(J.S.) from the Court of
30 Appeal of Manitoba, My Lord, is to show that Justice
31 Twaddle, in that case, was deferring to the trial judge. He
32 did make some comments that basically a penitentiary

1 sentence was appropriate. Again, that was a situation where
2 we have intoxicated female passed out and this man preys
3 upon her while she's sleeping. Your Brother, as he was,
4 Justice Huband, again, very respected jurist, provided a
5 strong dissent in that case saying that; wait a second, it's
6 not out of the realm to have a conditional sentence and
7 let's look at the circumstances of this young man. Or in
8 our case, let's look at the circumstances of Mr. Rhodes in
9 coming to an appropriate sentence.

10 And finally again, the Lamirande case where the
11 conditional sentence was upheld by the appellate --

12 The Court: That's a completely different kind
13 of case, isn't it?

14 D. Coggan: Yeah, it is. It's a different
15 case. I - I think I put that in My Lord more to - to
16 comment of the moral culpability of somebody who has HIV and
17 who's having unprotected sex. Is - is Mr. Rhodes' moral
18 culpability to that high of a level or did he make a mistake
19 of judgment in this case, as you've found in your reasons?
20 And I think that was my reason for throwing that case in at
21 the end there.

22 The Pre-Sentence Report - I believe I have -
23 demonstrates a man before you My Lord of good character. He
24 contributes to society. He's described as having an
25 excellent work ethic. His former employee again, described
26 him as having an excellent worth - work ethic. He's at very
27 low risk in most of the categories and a low risk in the
28 other categories. He is not a big drinker. Alcohol does
29 not seem to be a huge consideration.

30 The Court: I tell you, I have trouble with
31 that, but anyhow.

1 D. Coggan: Yeah, I think My Lord when you see
2 what we see in court in the North from time to time and you
3 see the alcoholism that goes up here - goes on up here, and
4 in cases like this it's often worse --

5 The Court: Everything's related.

6 C. Coggan: It - it is.

7 The Court: Everything's relative, is what
8 you're saying.

9 D. Coggan: Yeah. Yeah. Exactly. You know,
10 Mr. Rhodes drinks a bit, but - and it definitely affected
11 his judgment on the night in question, but it doesn't seem
12 to be something that gets out of hand very often. And was -
13 the night in question, he's out at a stag or a bachelor
14 party with his friends, led to more consumption than I think
15 he normally does.

16 The recommendation, as you can see - well, I want to
17 talk a bit about again, the interviewer, which I believe was
18 Mr. Konrad, who is the head of probations up here. And in
19 the report it says at page seven; Kenneth expressed a solid
20 foundation of mutual consent and of general issues related
21 to sexual offending. He was very cooperative in the
22 preparation of this report. So again, contradicting what my
23 friend said. I think it shows that he does have an
24 understanding of the issues in this case. And scored, My
25 Lord again, moderate low on the overall risk assessment.
26 And the writer then contends that he is a viable candidate
27 for community supervision.

28 He is employed by the City of Thompson My Lord. Right?
29 And I am asking you to allow him to continue that employment
30 and be a productive member of society. He will be walking
31 of eggshells, obviously, if you do place him on a
32 conditional sentence and I've explained that to him. That

1 it is a jail sentence and that any breaches would lead to
2 further incarceration.

3 That being said My Lord; I'm going to ask you to
4 consider probation in this case. I think that you will
5 probably reject that quite quickly because it is - I - I
6 believe your Lordship will categorize this as a major sexual
7 assault so I - I'm not going to stand here and say that
8 probation would be appropriate for that. In the
9 circumstances of this offender, I think it's something you
10 should consider. But my - the crux of my position, My Lord,
11 is that a conditional sentence is available to Mr. Rhodes.
12 I would ask you to impose it. It will have meaningful
13 consequences to him. It will be punitive. It can be
14 deterrent. And it does denounce what he did that night by
15 not properly determining what the will of that woman was on
16 the night in question.

17 Mr. Rhodes resides, My Lord, at 35 Hickory Avenue, here
18 in the City of Thompson. It's a home that he owns. Lives
19 there with his mother and his brother and another family
20 member. Or two brother?

21 K. Rhodes: (Inaudible).

22 D. Coggan: Mother, two brothers and one of
23 their children, I believe. I'm asking you to consider
24 conditions that he reside at that address. That he keep the
25 peace, be of good behaviour. The mandatory conditions, of
26 course. That he be subject to a curfew. My Lord, often
27 times the curfew is suggested for absolute curfew with
28 exceptions for work. I leave that to your Lordship to
29 structure appropriately. His normal work hours are 7:30 to
30 4:30, but there is times where he works in the evening shift
31 from 2:30 to 11:30. He is requesting four hours for
32 personal errands on Saturdays from 11:00 till 3:00,

1 something of that regard. And because his work schedule may
2 change, I would ask you to consider a curfew of 5:00 p.m. to
3 7:00 a.m., but absolute with exceptions for employment is
4 appropriate. And he can provide a work schedule to his
5 supervisor in advance if he has to work any overtime or - or
6 work that evening shift. He does usually have some notice
7 of the evening shift. You get.

8 K. Rhodes: I get notice (inaudible).

9 D. Coggan: Okay. So it is something he can
10 report to the supervisor if necessary. Obviously it's a jail
11 sentence so he should not be allowed to consume alcohol,
12 should not attend licensed premises. Should not possess any
13 weapons, firearms or ammunition. Should be ordered to
14 attend, participate and complete any and all counselling as
15 directed. And of course, no contact or communication with
16 the victim in this case, which he has not had.

17 I ask My Lord to consider the very strange
18 circumstances of this case, the moral culpability of my
19 client and consider his past record as a citizen My Lord.
20 He has no prior criminal record. He's been on bail - the
21 incident took place in August of 2006. He hasn't reoffended
22 since then. He's been on bail conditions, which I don't
23 believe were extremely onerous, but he's been on bail since
24 March of 2008.

25 The Court: What kind of conditions?

26 D. Coggan: I believe it was just keep the
27 peace and no contact. Was there a no drinking clause?

28 K. Rhodes: (Inaudible).

29 D. Coggan: Yeah, I couldn't find - My Lord had
30 the court record when I was looking for his conditions prior
31 to court, but I - I don't believe they were extremely
32 onerous conditions. But again, trust me, in the is

1 jurisdiction for somebody to go three years without
2 breaching is quite an amazing feat from what we normally see
3 in the courts up here so. It - it shows his character and
4 shows how seriously he's taken these charges since he's been
5 charged. And the fact that he's not a threat to society and
6 he's a good candidate for a conditional sentence My Lord.

7 With regard to the other orders that my friend is
8 seeking, I take no issue with the DNA; that's mandatory.
9 The Section 109 order is mandatory. On the SOIRA
10 application --

11 The Court: The which?

12 D. Coggan: The Sexual Offender Registry
13 application --

14 The Court: Right.

15 D. Coggan: -- that my friend has made under
16 Section 490, there is an exception where the interests of
17 the accused outweigh the - the privacy - his privacy
18 interests outweigh the interests of society in investigating
19 sexual offences and things of that nature.

20 Again, I'd ask you to consider the circumstances of
21 this case and the offender as to whether or not he needs to
22 be branded as a sexual offender the next 20 years, My Lord.
23 And I think that's a simplified way of - of saying it, but
24 that is basically the test; is that's a balancing interest
25 between the interest of the accused and the interest of
26 society.

27 The Court: So it's not mandatory?

28 D. Coggan: It is with that proviso. It's -
29 it's - it's a mandatory that you consider it, mandatory that
30 you impose it unless his interests are outweighed or his
31 interest outweigh society's interests. Mr. Gray might have
32 something to say.

1 D. Gray: (Inaudible) to the court.

2 D. Coggan: Yeah, it's - I can tell My Lord
3 that I've had one case where it was not ordered by a
4 Provincial Court Judge. But, for the most part, it's
5 generally ordered.

6 The Court: Alright.

7 D. Coggan: Two last comments My Lord. No, I
8 think I've spoken about the alcohol. I - as I said, I don't
9 believe it's mitigating. My friend read the comments from
10 Sandercock and Arcand, which indicate that it's - it goes to
11 the spontaneity of the offence in this case. It's not
12 mitigating, but it's factually important and it should be a
13 factor in coming to your sentence. Base - it basically
14 affects his - his moral culpability at the time is - is what
15 I would suggest.

16 And you made a comment, My Lord, which I - I wrote
17 down; the fact that she didn't say no. Is that a factor on
18 sentence? I submit that it is because it's a factor which
19 goes to his state of mind at the time of the offence. And
20 again, you have to consider that in considering his moral
21 culpability.

22 Subject to any questions you have My Lord; I believe
23 those are my comments. I ask you to consider some form of
24 punishment for Mr. Rhodes that does not involve an
25 incarceratory sentence. Subject to any questions, those are
26 my comments.

27 The Court: I'm going to ask you the converse
28 of question I asked the Crown. If I were inclined to order
29 a period of incarceration, do you have any submission to
30 make on the length of that other than as short as possible?

31 D. Coggan: Well, I think what's been
32 demonstrated from the case law is that a three year starting

1 point in Sandercock is for cases unlike this one. This case
2 is not, as I said - it's going to be hard, I think, My Lord,
3 for you to find a lot of malice in what Mr. Rhodes did that
4 night. You've said it in your decision that it was as lapse
5 of judgment on his part. He ought to have been aware that
6 she was not consenting at the time. Is his level of
7 culpability such that he deserves to go a penitentiary; a
8 man who's 40 years of age with no prior record? Is a
9 penitentiary sentence appropriate? I - I say it isn't, My
10 Lord and I ask you to come to the same conclusion.

11 If you do impose a jail sentence, I think the
12 sentencing considerations under the Code can be met by a
13 sentence of two years less a day. In all honesty, I - I
14 believe a - a sentence in a range of a year to 18 months is
15 probably appropriate, but it should be a conditional
16 sentence My Lord. I'm, I think, cognizant of the fact that
17 you may go up - above that a little bit, but I think he's a
18 very good candidate for a conditional sentence.

19 On the facts of this case, I think it calls for not
20 lenience from the court, but an understanding of the
21 circumstances of that night and the circumstances which were
22 known to Mr. Rhodes at the time.

23 The Court: Thank you Mr. Coggan.

24 D. Coggan: Thank you.

25 The Court: Any response on the question of
26 conditional sentence and the terms? I think that's all that
27 you should be entitled to respond to.

28 D. Gray: Well, I do think there are a couple
29 of other points My Lord, but I - I - but I will respond to
30 that initially. Do you mean what terms we would be seeking?

31 The Court: Yes.

32 D. Gray: If in fact --

1 The Court: If that - I'm not saying --

2 D. Gray: I'm not - I know.

3 The Court: But I want to get as much as I can
4 from you people while I've got you here.

5 D. Gray: If in fact a conditional sentence
6 is considered if should, of course, be for the maximum term.

7 The Court: That's two years less a day.

8 D. Gray: Two years less a day. It should
9 require that the accused be bound throughout that term to an
10 absolute curfew with the following exceptions: for medical
11 emergencies involving himself or his immediate family.

12 The Court: Including his girlfriend even
13 though she does not live there?

14 D. Gray: My Lord, quite candidly, I would
15 not necessarily agree with that. I think it depends on the
16 circumstances and you would need to hear some evidence as to
17 their relationship, with the greatest of respect, to - to do
18 that. However, I could see how you could make the order. I
19 just don't think it's appropriate unless they're actually
20 living together. I think that truly is the test and I --

21 The Court: Alright.

22 D. Gray: -- I - that's my feeling on that.
23 The second is for the purpose of employment providing he
24 provides his work schedule in advance in writing to the
25 supervisor. The third is for compliance with the order or
26 any other court order. Compliance with the - the
27 conditional sentence - so that I assume that one of the
28 conditions of the order --

29 The Court: Yes.

30 D. Gray: -- will be that he attend,
31 participate and complete - complete counselling; as an
32 example.

1 The Court: Well if - that would be one.

2 D. Gray: Right. And if that was one of the
3 conditions --

4 The Court: Yeah.

5 D. Gray: -- it would be --

6 The Court: Okay.

7 D. Gray: -- (inaudible) to say he has an
8 absolute curfew, but he can't actually go out to do the
9 counselling. That would be --

10 The Court: You just articulated, you
11 (inaudible). Okay.

12 D. Gray: Yeah.

13 The Court: I - I hear you.

14 D. Gray: And lastly, the usual has been a
15 four hour period for personal items and my learned friend
16 has already provided for that. He should not possess or
17 consume alcohol.

18 The Court: Is that - that's the weekly - a
19 weekly.

20 D. Gray: Four - it's weekly.

21 The Court: Four hours.

22 D. Gray: Yes. Some judges have started
23 allowing supervisors some discretion after a period of time.

24 The Court: Yeah.

25 D. Gray: I do not necessarily subscribe to
26 that. I think the Court of Appeal has not suggested that
27 should be - should be delegated, but you know that's
28 something we can debate, I suppose, if we get into the
29 nuance of it.

30 The Court: Right.

1 D. Gray: That deals with the - the curfew
2 issue. He should also present himself to the door for
3 curfew compliance checks.

4 The Court: Right.

5 D. Gray: And he should, of course, maintain
6 a working landline and provide the supervisor and RCMP with
7 that number.

8 I would suggest that he should not possess or consume
9 alcohol or other intoxicants. That he should not possess
10 illegal drugs. That he should not possess prescription
11 drugs unless he has a prescription for that drug and he
12 should not use any substance in a way that would make him
13 intoxicated. I suggest that he should not attend at any
14 licensed premises perhaps excepting restaurants. Although,
15 with only four hours, I'm not sure that there great need for
16 him to do that.

17 He should not possess weapons of any kind.

18 He should, of course, have no contact at all with C.P.
19 and I'm going to actually add S.M., even though she isn't
20 actually resident in this community. Well, she may have
21 moved back.

22 He should attend, participate and complete counselling
23 as directed by the supervisor. And of course, you should
24 specify sexual offender counselling.

25 He probably should have --

26 The Court: That would be sexual offender
27 counselling.

28 D. Gray: Yes, I mean it could be all
29 counselling, but he specify that. He should attend for an
30 alcohol or addictions assessment and comply with any
31 treatment required by that assessment.

1 With the greatest of respect, my learned friend, if a
2 sentence under two - under two years plus one day; that is
3 even a penitentiary sentence of two years, a three year
4 probation period should follow with all of those same
5 conditions. The only exceptions, with the greatest of
6 respect, being the curfew and the curfew compliance.

7 My Lord as that was the point that you asked for
8 comment, I stop now. I do have a couple of other points if
9 you wish to hear them. If you feel that it's inappropriate,
10 I'm - I'm certainly cognizant.

11 The Court: I think we've heard from the Crown
12 and we've heard from the accused.

13 D. Gray: That's fine My Lord. If - if -
14 it's your courtroom.

15 The Court: Mr. Rhodes, would you stand up
16 please? Do you have anything to add from what your counsel
17 has said?

18 K. Rhodes: (Inaudible).

19 The Court: Thank you. I had thought I knew
20 what to do last evening. But I'd like to deal with it today
21 if I can because everybody's here and it's gone on long
22 enough.

23 D. Gray: I can advise that I - we have - I
24 have no plans (inaudible) and I know that Ms. Seesahai is
25 here for the day so whatever time you wish to proceed this
26 afternoon.

27 The Court: If I - if I ask people to come back
28 at 3 o'clock, can you deal with that?

29 D. Coggan: Yes.

30 S. Seesahai: Yes.

31 D. Gray: Absolutely.

1 The Court: It may be - you'll excuse me if I'm
2 a few minutes late even then. I want to get this as right as
3 I can.

4 D. Gray: Yes, My Lord.

5 S. Seesahai: Yes, My Lord.

6 The Court: But let's aim - and it may be that
7 you'll come at 3 o'clock and I'll say I need more time, but
8 let's aim for 3 o'clock.

9 S. Seesahai: Understood My Lord.

10

11 (RECESS)

12

13 The Court: Alright. I wanted, if I could, to
14 do this today to bring some closure to it on a timely
15 manner. And so if a transcript of whatever I say is
16 required, I just am reserving my right to make some
17 grammatical or clerical changes to it.

18 Thank you for the submissions that you both made.
19 They made a tough case for me tougher.

20 Whatever might be said about this case, it is not the
21 archetypical case described in R. v. Sandercock, 1985
22 Carswell Alta., 190. That case appears to be the starting
23 point for the starting point of three years for major sexual
24 assaults. At paragraph 13 Mr. Justice Kerans wrote:

25

26 One archetypical case of sexual assault is
27 where a person, by violence or threat of
28 violence, forces an adult victim to submit to
29 sexual activity of a sort or intensity such
30 that a reasonable person would know
31 beforehand that the victim likely would
32 suffer lasting emotional or psychological

1 injury, whether or not physical injury
2 occurs. The injury might come from the sexual
3 aspect of the situation or from the violence
4 used or from any combination of the two. This
5 category, which we would describe as major
6 sexual assault, includes not only what we
7 suspect will continue to be called rape, but
8 obviously also many cases of attempted rape,
9 fellatio, cunnilingus, and buggery.

10
11 Sentencing in cases of that nature generally emphasize
12 deterrence and denunciation. This occurred in the
13 Sandercock decision. And it was echoed in the Manitoba
14 Court of Appeal decision in R. v. Borkowsky and R. v.
15 Broekaert. And if one took the time to review other cases
16 involving forced sexual activity, you wouldn't have to look
17 hard to see those words "deterrence" and "denunciation" as
18 the main planks of the sentencing platform.

19 I have been left with another archetypical sexual
20 assault in the authorities which have been given me. These
21 are cases which involve sexual intercourse with a sleeping
22 woman. I mention, as examples, the case of R. v. Wells, R.
23 v. White, R. v. S.(J.S.) and more laterally R. v. Arcand,
24 all of which resulted in periods of incarceration(Wells, 20
25 months, White, 26 months inclusive of time served,
26 S.(J.S.), 30 months jail, and Arcand, two years less one day
27 custody and two years probation).

28 Each case mentioned those two buzz words; deterrence
29 and denunciation, which generally appears to have translated
30 into jail. But not always. See the case of R. v. Killam, a
31 decision of the Ontario Court of Appeal in 1999 in which the
32 court, albeit reluctantly, did not interfere with the two

1 year less one day conditional sentence, or the case of R.
2 White, (that's another White) in which the Court of Appeal
3 overturned the sentence of nine months jail and replaced it
4 with 18 months conditional sentence, or R. v. Nikkanen, a
5 1990 decision of the Ontario Court of Appeal which
6 overturned a decision of 18 months incarceration plus
7 probation and replaced it with a conditional sentence of 18
8 months.

9 What I want to emphasize is that no one has brought to
10 me a case like this one. There was no archetypical case
11 like this given to me. I'm not surprised because the facts
12 of this case are unique and the law of conditional sentences
13 then existing of course, no longer applies now.

14 Ms. Seesahai argues strongly and effectively that this
15 is a major sexual assault case and I should take the three
16 year penitentiary Sandercock starting point and add to it,
17 based upon factors which she submits aggravate the matter.

18 She argues there is a lack of remorse and I tend to
19 agree that I haven't heard much remorse expressed. She
20 argues that there is a Victim Impact Statement which
21 indicates that the complainant was hurt physically and
22 emotionally. She argues that when the complainant was laid
23 down at the side of the highway and expressed that she was
24 uncomfortable, Mr. Rhodes pressed on. She says this was a
25 rape in a remote area, when the complainant was vulnerable
26 to the whims of Mr. Rhodes. She says that he was older and
27 ought to have known better.

28 At bottom she says denunciation and deterrence are the
29 most important considerations here. And she and Mr. Gray
30 urge me to treat this as major sexual assault for which
31 three years - three plus years incarceration is not only
32 appropriate but mandated by the cases.

1 My conviction in this case was based upon the notion
2 that the accused took no steps, once he got to the highway,
3 to be sure that what was about to happen was an activity
4 that was mutually desired. Some signals had been sent
5 early, but they were not enough for the accused to conclude
6 that the heightened sexual activity would be consensual,
7 only that it was a possibility. He acted at the side of the
8 road without any further inquiry. He took the lead and
9 expected the complainant to follow. He was not entitled to
10 the benefit of the honest, but reasonable belief defence
11 because he did not take reasonable steps to verify the
12 consent. Put another way, he was insensitive to what the
13 complainant wanted and Section 273.2 of the Criminal Code
14 mandated a finding of guilt. His lack of reasonable inquiry
15 deemed a guilty mind whatever he was truly thinking.

16 Let me remind you what I said when I entered the
17 conviction and why this case is of a different genre than
18 those that counsel have given to me. You will recall that I
19 spent some considerable time relating my findings leading up
20 to the sexual activity at the side of the road. After
21 saying that I would have put the honest, but mistaken belief
22 defence to a jury had there been one, I went on to say this:

23
24 I say this because the complainant herself
25 testified that on the gravel road between the
26 lake and highway she gave some indication of
27 willingness to engage in sexual activity by
28 returning the kisses of the accused.

29
30 It must be acknowledged that the parties met
31 in what can only be described as "inviting"
32 circumstances. At 2:30 on a summer morning

1 two young women, one of which was dressed in
2 a tube top without a bra and jeans and both
3 of whom were made up and wore high heels in a
4 parking lot outside a bar, made their
5 intentions publically known that they wanted
6 to party. Then the women, in particular
7 S.M., made the suggestion that the group
8 should go swimming, notwithstanding that not
9 one of them had any bathing suit.

10
11 These facts could fairly conjure up, in the
12 mind of the accused, that getting together
13 with these women had potential that sexual
14 activity lay ahead. Then to see Mr.
15 Lederhous and S.M. "making out" at the stop
16 at the Jonas Road could further heighten the
17 anticipation in the mind of the accused that
18 further sexual activity could well occur.
19 And although the complainant had rebuffed his
20 advances in the backseat of the car, her
21 demonstrated willingness on the gravel road
22 to hold onto him and kiss him and pretend to
23 like him could surely leave an impression
24 that the door was then not closed to further
25 sexual activity. This is especially so since
26 there is no evidence before the group got out
27 of the car by the lake there were any threats
28 or excessive advances made by the accused.

29
30 By the time he was walking hand in hand with
31 the complainant up the gravel road to the
32 highway, I find that the accused was not

1 aware of the complainant's fear of him and
2 that he honestly believed that the increased
3 sexual activity was still a possibility. I
4 do not accept that the accused had formed any
5 intention at this time to impose his desires
6 upon the complainant, since it would have
7 made more sense to impose them in the privacy
8 of the gravel road than in the more relative
9 openness of the highway.

10
11 I did prefer the complainant's evidence over Mr. Rhodes
12 evidence as to what happened at the side of the highway.
13 But that describes the activity. It does not describe Mr.
14 Jones (sic) mind. In effect, that doesn't matter because of
15 Section 273.2.

16 I also said this:

17
18 I conclude that although the accused was led
19 by the circumstances to conclude that sex was
20 in the air, he was insensitive to the fact
21 the complainant was not a willing
22 participant. It was fairly argued by the
23 Crown that as required by Section 273.2(b),
24 he did not take reasonable steps to verify
25 consent.

26
27 I accept the evidence of the complainant that
28 when the accused laid the complainant down by
29 the side of the road, he did not inquire
30 whether she wished to continue. There was no
31 similar inquiry after she complained about
32 being hurt by his digital penetration; even

1 in the evidence of the accused. Given that
2 the complainant was a stranger to him and
3 that he was alone in the middle of the night
4 on a remote stretch of highway with a young
5 woman who is smaller than he, a woman who is
6 16 years his junior and who he acknowledged
7 shown signs of intoxication and who had
8 rebuffed his advances earlier in the morning,
9 forging on with the sexual activity on the
10 side of the highway without further inquiry
11 either before it began or midway through
12 after she exhibited discomfort, does not
13 satisfy the test of 273.2(b).

14
15 Holding hands with the complainant,
16 exchanging kisses with the complainant and
17 walking arm and arm up the highway did not
18 entitle the accused to engage in the more
19 elevated sexual conduct without first further
20 inquiry on his part. I do not accept that
21 the accused asked the complainant at the side
22 of the road for any permission to proceed.
23 He simply moved further to the next level.
24 And when his digital penetration hurt the
25 complainant there was no further inquiry to
26 ensure consent, but simply an escalation of
27 the sex he had imagined when he left Thompson
28 in the first place.

29
30 This is a case of misread signals and inconsiderate
31 behaviour. There is a different quality to these facts than
32 found in many cases of serious sexual assault. There were

1 signals given by the circumstances and indeed by the
2 complainant, albeit the latter based upon self preservation,
3 which ought not to be overlooked. This is not a case in
4 which Mr. Rhodes' anticipation was groundless. However, its
5 consummation without reasonable inquiry was not justified.

6 This however, is a different situation from sexual
7 assaults where there is no perceived invitation or where an
8 accused man takes an opportunity to satisfy himself upon a
9 sleeping complainant. In those cases, as I have said, they
10 are of a different quality.

11 So I'm faced with a man with no criminal record
12 whatsoever, who appears to be industrious in his work and
13 able to relate to others. But for this one instance, he
14 does not live up to the designation as a criminal. The
15 question is notwithstanding the quality of this offence and
16 his unblemished record whether he must go to jail.

17 The comments in Arcand about the gravity of the - about
18 gravity of the offence and responsibility of the offender
19 are not challenged. But when talks of proportionality
20 (similar sentences for similar offences), the court must
21 compare apples and apples, not apples and oranges. Yes,
22 there were common threads. There was sexual intercourse;
23 there was cunillingus and digital penetration.

24 But here there were no threats knowingly given, there
25 was no violence knowingly imposed. Mr. Rhodes, in his
26 testimony, had said that he wasn't out there to hurt anyone.
27 Even his sexual activity, bizarre as it was and as hurtful
28 as it was to the complainant, cannot be said to be only self
29 gratification. It had the characteristics of a clumsy Don
30 Juan. I don't condone it, but it simply does not fit the
31 archetypical cases cited.

1 Unlike the sleeping women cases, there was no inert
2 woman giving no signals at all. There was some invitation
3 however involuntary. I've read you the facts that I found.
4 I don't criticize the complainant. She was a frightened
5 young woman all alone in the presence of a large, perhaps
6 loud, overbearing older man. But she did give signals that
7 he read the wrong way and was not considerate enough to make
8 sure of what they were saying.

9 There are a couple of paragraphs in Sandercock which
10 say this, and they're paragraphs 29 and 30.

11

12 Provocation of the offender by the victim is
13 an obvious mitigating factor. More difficult
14 to decide is whether, in a given case, there
15 has been provocation. It is surely not
16 provocation, for example, simply to be a
17 woman, or to be attractive, or to be prettily
18 attired. Sexual arousal is not the same thing
19 as the arousal of a desire to seek sexual
20 satisfaction by violence to another, and
21 provocation of the first is not necessarily
22 provocation of the second.

23

24 Negligence of the victim as to his or own -
25 or her own safety is generally not relevant.
26 The blameworthiness of the offender is not in
27 the least diminished because the victim
28 imprudently provides the offender with an
29 opportunity for crime, nor does it
30 necessarily follow that such imprudence

1 lessens the likely pain, outrage and
2 indignity which then visits the victim.

3

4 The case uses the words provocation. Perhaps
5 enticement is a better word. But even that is not really
6 apt here. I'm sure that whatever signals there were that
7 sex was in the air were unintentional. But that does not
8 change the fact that they were there, more than just a
9 manner of dress, more than the fact that she was a woman.
10 And they are a relevant, mitigating factor.

11 I made reference during argument to paragraph 13 of the
12 Arcand case. It said:

13

14 The sentencing judge found that prior to
15 passing out, the complainant had done nothing
16 to encourage the offender to have sex with
17 her.

18

19 If the notion of signals has no application in law,
20 there was no need for the majority in that case to comment
21 on it.

22 See also the Ontario Court of Appeal in the Killam
23 case:

24 She had, of course, not consented and had
25 done nothing to suggest to the respondent
26 that she was prepared to have sexual
27 intercourse with him.

28

1 The signals given here, in this case, are at least
2 relevant to the degree of moral blameworthiness of Mr.
3 Rhodes.

4 So this case is different. Make no mistake Mr. Rhodes'
5 failure to make inquiries warrants sanctions. Apart from
6 anything else women deserve respect and consideration. And
7 when strangers are involved, greater care must be exercised
8 in showing that consideration because there is no track
9 record of familiarity on which to gauge the consent. But in
10 this case therefore, not only is deterrence and denunciation
11 important, so also are the other criteria in Section 718,
12 including:

- 13
- 14 1. Protection of society,
 - 15 2. Rehabilitation, and
 - 16 3. Promote a sense of responsibility in
17 offenders and acknowledgment of the harm
18 done to the victim and to the community.
- 19

20 Protection of society, I do not believe is advanced one
21 iota by putting Mr. Rhodes in jail. The Pre-Sentence Report
22 suggests that there are no psychological or antisocial
23 patterns and Mr. Rhodes' history confirms that.

24 As to rehabilitation and promoting a sense of
25 responsibility, a lengthy prison term, in my view, for non-
26 thinking behaviour tends to stifle constructive change
27 rather than encourage it.

28 The Pre-Sentence Report is favourable. Mr. Rhodes has
29 no criminal record, has steady employment, a supportive
30 girlfriend. There is no real suggestion of recidivism. By
31 this conviction he is branded a sexual offender, at least in

1 the eyes of many members of society. And he has been living
2 under this cloud for four and a half years.

3 I do not view either Sandercock or Arcand as
4 particularly helpful where an accused is found guilty
5 because he failed to measure up to a deemed intent. Mr.
6 Coggan is right that the moral blameworthiness of Mr. Rhodes
7 on this night, in those circumstances was not at the same
8 level as the accused persons in either Sandercock or Arcand.
9 Not all guilty people are morally culpable to the same
10 level. This difference is not reflected in conviction. It
11 can be reflected in sentencing.

12 If I were forced to utilize the Sandercock approach,
13 the lesser level of moral culpability in the unique
14 circumstances of this case is a material mitigating factor.
15 However, I do not feel the Sandercock starting point should
16 be applicable in this case because of the different fact
17 situation, which I have earlier described.

18 I mention also the fact that Parliament has now
19 determined that conditional sentences are not available for
20 cases such as this anymore. However, when this offence was
21 committed, conditional sentences were not only available,
22 they were not infrequently utilized. Mr. Rhodes ought not
23 to be prejudiced by the shifting sands of time, and I am
24 able to draw upon a conditional sentence for this offence as
25 one arrow in my sentencing quiver.

26 The real question is whether, in this case, it is
27 appropriate to do so. Deterrence to Mr. Rhodes is not a
28 factor. With his past and his Pre-Sentence Report, I see no
29 basis for believing that he is at greater risk to do this
30 again if he doesn't go to jail. He has been living with the
31 system including the vagaries of placing a position before

1 the court. If he hasn't learned to be more respectful to
2 women by this experience, he never will.

3 I also am of the view that general deterrence and
4 denunciation can be found in a properly crafted conditional
5 sentence. The Pre-Sentence Report demonstrates that Mr.
6 Rhodes likes his freedom; to fish, to camp, to go out and
7 visit. A conditional sentence which restricts those
8 activities, in my mind, imposes jail like conditions that do
9 impact on a person's quality of life.

10 I am therefore, prepared to impose a 24 month less one
11 day conditional sentence. By my calculations that would
12 end, assuming this matter ended today, in February, 2013.

13 The conditions - firstly, the mandatory conditions:

- 14 (1) Keep the peace and be of good behaviour.
15 (2) Report to a probation services supervisor on or
16 before Friday, February 25th, 2011. That's a week
17 today. And thereafter when and in the manner
18 directed by that supervisor.
19 (3) Remain within Manitoba unless written permission,
20 in advance, is given by that supervisor.
21 (4) Notify the supervisor, in advance, of any change
22 of name, address or employment or occupation.

23 There are other conditions:

- 24 (1) For the first 12 months - I'm sorry, throughout
25 the, you shall reside at 35 Hickory Avenue. And
26 in addition to notification to probation - to your
27 probation supervisor of any change, you will not
28 change that address without his or her consent.
29 (2) For the first 12 months, you shall be obliged to
30 stay at your residence, that's 35 Hickory Avenue,
31 and not leave except for the following: to attend
32 work for the City of Thompson. And that means you

1 are to go directly there and you are to come home
2 directly from work. No stopping, no errands on
3 the way there or back. - Another condition in this
4 first 12 month period, to attend - actually, I'll
5 come back to that.- For the first 12 month period
6 there will be a period of four hours between 11:00
7 and 3:00 p.m. every Saturday or such other
8 substitute four hour period satisfactory to your
9 supervisor for the purpose of attending stores,
10 etc. for the supply of food and items necessary to
11 live.

- 12 (3) For the second 12 month less a day period, the
13 curfew condition is extended such that you can go
14 out from your home between the hours of 6:00 a.m.
15 to 7:00 p.m. if you do not otherwise fit in the
16 exemption for work that I mentioned earlier. In
17 other words, you can - if you have a - if you have
18 a work shift in the evening, the fact that your
19 curfew is 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 doesn't stop you from
20 doing that.

21
22 For the first six months or 12 months - actually, for
23 the full - the rest of the conditions are for the full
24 period. That's not quite right. I'll mention there's
25 one that isn't.

- 26
27 (4) You will provide to your supervisor a list of your
28 work schedules, in advance, on the first day of
29 each month.
- 30 (5) You will attend any counselling sessions specified
31 by your supervisor and that counselling could
32 include any sex offender counselling.

- 1 (6) In the second 12 months less a day period, you
2 will also be entitled to partake in any voluntary
3 charitable activity that is approved by your
4 probation supervisor.
- 5 (7) Throughout the whole of the period, you will
6 answer the door or telephone of your residence in
7 compliance with any curfew checks.
- 8 (8) I know that the Pre-Sentence Report says that you
9 do not have any alcohol difficulties. I believe
10 however, that much of the events of the night in
11 2006 were alcohol fuelled, at least in part.
12 Because of that and because a conditional sentence
13 is a substitute for a jail sentence where you
14 would not legally obtain alcohol or drugs, I am
15 imposing the condition that you do not possess or
16 consume alcohol or non-prescription drugs
17 throughout the whole of the conditional sentence
18 period. That's two years. No drinking.
- 19 (9) Except for the comment that I will make in a few
20 minutes, you shall not communicate or contact the
21 complainant or S.M. during the whole two years
22 less a day period. Nor should you attend the home
23 or place of employment of the victim.
- 24 (10) There's also one last condition. Within 30 days
25 from the expiration of any appeals from my
26 decision in this case, you should ensure that a
27 letter addressed to your victim is written by you,
28 in your handwriting with a fulsome apology to her
29 for your conduct. That letter should be delivered
30 within the 30 day period to the Crown Attorney's
31 Office in Thompson, in a sealed envelope, who can
32 arrange that it be delivered to the victim. The

1 Crown is not entitled to open that letter before
2 delivery to the victim. But if there is anything
3 untoward in that letter, which is not consistent
4 with a fulsome apology, no doubt that will be
5 brought to my attention and will be treated as a
6 breach of this conditional sentence. Understand?

7 Given the remedial nature of the sentence which I have
8 imposed, I do not believe that a follow up period of
9 probation is necessary.

10 I also make the following orders:

- 11 (1) A DNA order under Section 487.051(1).
- 12 (2) An order requiring Mr. Rhodes to comply with the
13 Sexual Offender Information Registration Act under
14 Section 490.012, the duration for which is 20
15 years.
- 16 (3) A Section 109(1)(a) mandatory weapons prohibition
17 order.

18 Is there anything --

19 D. Gray: My Lord, just some questions about
20 the conditional sentence order. I - I --

21 The Court: Yes.

22 D. Gray: Was it your intention to put an
23 order that he have no weapons during the period of that
24 time?

25 The Court: There is - he's - he's - there's a
26 mandatory weapons prohibition order.

27 D. Gray: Yes, there is. It's just usual to
28 put it as part of the conditional sentence order because
29 obviously, if he's found with a weapon it makes it much
30 easier if it's simply part of the conditions and - and it is
31 a jail sentence.

1 The Court: Yes. I didn't put it in because of
2 the mandatory order, but that's - for purpose of
3 enforcement, I'm prepared to include that as a term --

4 D. Gray: Thank you.

5 The Court: -- of the conditional sentence.

6 D. Gray: There were two other conditions
7 that I - we had asked and I - I just wanted to confirm that
8 you'd turned your attention to them. One was the not attend
9 licensed premises except for restaurant and the other was
10 that he take an alcohol assessment. And there is one other
11 exception.

12 The Court: I - I - I did consider both of
13 those and I - I've determined - I didn't think --

14 D. Gray: That's fine.

15 The Court: -- that they were applicable here.

16 D. Gray: That's fine. And the last is in
17 terms of the curfew, I had suggested that there should be an
18 exception for medical emergencies.

19 The Court: I meant to say that. I'm sorry.
20 And - and because I did mean - the exception will be for
21 himself, for members of his family living in the same -
22 well, for members of his immediate family and I'm going to
23 add for Jacqueline Simpson if that should ever occur.

24 D. Gray: Lastly, the length of the order
25 under Section 109, it's a minimum of ten years and a maximum
26 of lifetime. I'm presuming ten years.

27 The Court: Twenty years.

28 D. Gray: Twenty years. Thank you. Is there
29 anything else that I need to address?

30 S. Seesahai: Not from the Crown My Lord.

31 D. Coggan: No. Thank you My Lord.

32 (PROCEEDINGS CONCLUDED)

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPT

I, SHANNON BECKER, certify that the foregoing pages of printed matter, numbered 1 to 87, are a true, accurate transcript of the proceedings recorded by a sound recording device approved by the Attorney-General and operated by a court clerk/monitor, and transcribed by me to the best of my skill, ability and understanding.

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