

Trial

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Inside a dresser drawer in Doerr’s master bedroom, crime scene technicians recovered a letter addressed to Fox-Doerr describing infidelity, and witnesses would later allege that Fox-Doerr and Richmond Sr. were having an affair. Phone records would show the pair communicated frequently, including just before Doerr was killed.

During a March 2019 police interview, Fox-Doerr would admit to having deleted any record of the five-and-a-half minute call between herself and Richmond Sr. on the night of the killing from her phone “because she knew he had been in trouble before,” Keen’s affidavit states.

Stan Levco, who led the state’s case against Fox-Doerr, pointed to the deleted phone call during her trial as evidence of a conspiracy to kill Doerr.

“If that’s all we had, that would be more than enough,” Levco said. “And that’s not all we have.”

The EPD and later prosecutors hinted at a financial motive, though neither Fox-Doerr nor Richmond Sr. made off with a substantial sum of money as a result of the killing. An Evansville Police Department spokesman said Monday the agency would have no comment on the case until after Richmond Sr.’s trial.

Based on Doerr’s wounds and ballistics evidence collected by police, the gun used by the shooter was capable of firing an unusual mix of handgun and .410 shotgun ammunition, and detectives would trace just such a weapon, a Taurus Judge, to Richmond Sr.’s son, who stole the powerful revolver from the Evansville pawn shop where he worked.

Larry Richmond Jr. testified at Fox-Doerr’s trial that he stole the Taurus Judge for his father. He also said he saw his father kiss Fox Doerr. At the time, Richmond Sr. was in a relationship with Fox-Doerr’s sister.

When police obtained a search warrant for Richmond Sr.’s cellphone and analyzed the contents of its hard drive, investigators determined that in the minutes before Doerr was shot and killed Richmond Sr. opened a police scanner app and called Fox-Doerr, his arrest affidavit states. The device then powered off.

Nine minutes after Doerr’s killing,



The Evansville-Vanderburgh Civic Center, which houses the courtroom where Larry Richmond Sr. will stand trial, as seen through a reflection on Dec. 8. HOUSTON HARWOOD/THE GLEANER

the phone powered back on and data showed Richmond Sr. opened the police scanner app again, detectives allege. Six minutes after dispatchers received the first report of a shooting, Richmond Sr. was captured by surveillance cameras visiting a gas station just 0.3 miles from Doerr’s home.

Prosecutors presented much of the aforementioned evidence during their successful prosecution of Fox-Doerr, who is now serving a 90-year prison sentence. In March, the Indiana Court of Appeals upheld Fox-Doerr’s conviction.

Moers said the state’s case against Richmond Sr. would inevitably bear similarities to the case against Fox-Doerr. She estimated it will take between two and three days to present the state’s case. After prosecutors rest, Richmond Sr.’s attorneys will have the opportunity to call their own witnesses.

One difference between the two criminal cases stemming from Doerr’s killing that both sides must contend with is Fox-Doerr’s statements to police and Richmond Sr.’s lack thereof. Fox-Doerr answered a wide range of questions during hours of interviews with

detectives, much of which were shows to jurors during her trial, while Richmond Sr. has thus far exercised his right to remain silent, according to court records.

It remains to be seen whether Richmond Sr. will testify in his own defense, though conventional wisdom would argue against it.

Should jurors find Richmond Sr. guilty, prosecutors will then present a second case arguing that he should incur the most severe sentence allowable under state law besides death: life in prison without parole. Indiana statute treats life sentences much the same way it treats the death penalty insofar as jurors must be convinced that aggravating factors outweigh any potential mitigating circumstances.

According to legal filings, prosecutors will point to Richmond Sr.’s prior murder conviction in arguing that he should be locked up for good.

In October, prosecutors opened a new case against Richmond Sr. after he and two other men being held at the Vanderburgh County jail allegedly beat a fellow inmate, court records show. Richmond Sr. has pleaded not guilty to

one count of battery resulting in moderate bodily injury, a Level 6 felony.

When asked why Fox-Doerr went before jurors first, Moers said it primarily came down to court calendars. But it had an added benefit for prosecutors. If jurors found Fox-Doerr not guilty of conspiracy, their case against Richmond Sr. for pulling trigger would be little impeded, whereas if Richmond Sr. stood trial first and escaped conviction the case against Fox-Doerr could fall apart.

Ahead of jury selection, the two sides filed dueling motions attempting to shape the questions prospective jurors would be asked, with Richmond Sr.’s legal team pushing for a lengthier survey. While the court set aside two days for jury selection beginning Thursday, Moers said that if a jury is seated quickly opening arguments could be heard as soon as Friday afternoon.

“We look forward to having our day in court and the chance to fight for the victim’s family, for Robbie Doerr,” Moers said.

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