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Legal Proceedings Commence in People v. Clark: A Homicide Case Involving SMC
CEO

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MONTEREY— After a two hour high-stakes trial, Tobie Clark, the in-house counsel for SMC, was found guilty for the first degree murder of Kieran Sunshine on July 16th using a champagne saber.

Kieran Sunshine along with Tobie Clark, the primary suspect, had been developing a revolutionary new product at SMC, dubbed the “ForeverFlex5000”, but problems quickly arose when they discovered that the prosthetic was causing infections in patients during the test trials, nevertheless an expedited patent was filed by Clark. The situation escalated on July 16 2023, one day before the SMC board meeting, when the two were heard arguing and the following morning Sunshine was found deceased in his suite.

During the pre-trial motion, the defense attempted to dismiss the Geofense data collected by detectives under the promise that it was overbroad. Nonetheless, it was rejected after a compelling argument made by the prosecution attorney Beau Erikson.

Prosecution stated that Clark had committed the crime because Sunshine had been unwilling to follow through with their fraudulent plan. Clark was driven by power and greed, his motive clear: to silence Sunshine by any means necessary.

Witness testimonies added a layer of complexity, with Gerri Moayed, SMC's personal wellness coach, claiming to have overheard a heated argument between Clark and Sunshine the night of the murder, as well as Clark exclaim "if you don't fix this, there's going to be a bloodbath" earlier in the day. Moayed testified that she had known of the fraudulent plot and of Sunshine's change of heart. Prosecution provided a riveting motive for Clark's alleged actions.

The defense challenged these accusations saying that Clark was a victim of circumstance, saying that it was Kieran and not Clark who was behind the fraudulent scheme. Defense attorney Ryan Hubanks said that the prosecution was "Grasping at straws and their hands have come up empty".

Crucially, the defense pointed to the potential motive of Emar Sunshine, highlighting her financial gain from her brother's demise and suggesting that she had more than anyone to gain. The defense called Nic Yang, Clarke's long time friend from law school and he described Clarke as a man of "steadfast loyalty and unlimited compassion", casting doubt onto the prosecution's portrayal of him as a ruthless killer. They also provided an alternative suspect, Kieran Sunshine's own brother with whom he had long had a strained relationship. Defense attorney Michael Blich stated that where there was a "reasonable alternative, there is reasonable doubt".

As the trial unfolded, Clark grew increasingly tense as it became clear that his fate was in the hands of the Jury and the Judge. In his testimony he broke down stating, “although we had our differences, our friendship could still have been repaired, but it's too late for that now.”

It was clear that the evidence shown during the trial was incredibly dividing and that discrepancies plagued the case, but after a two hour long trial, Judge Carrie Panetta delivered the verdict: Clark was guilty for the murder of SMC CEO Kieran Sunshine on July 16 2023.

A date is yet to be set for sentencing.