

COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SECOND DISTRICT OF TEXAS AT FORT WORTH

Christon L. Jackson v. The State of Texas

No. 02-24-00417-CR · No. 02-24-00417-CR · Decided February 26, 2026

SUMMARY

The Second Court of Appeals of Texas affirmed Christon L. Jackson’s conviction for felony murder and seventy-year sentence. The court held that the evidence was legally sufficient to show that Jackson caused the victim’s fatal head injury during a robbery, rejecting his theory that a later injury caused the death. The court also upheld the exclusion of defense exhibits concerning an accomplice witness’s criminal history, concluding that the evidence was either not logically connected to alleged bias or was cumulative and harmless.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Court of Appeals for the Second District of Texas at Fort Worth
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Dabney Bassel; Sudderth, C.J.; Kerr, J.; Bassel, J.
JURISDICTION	Court of Appeals for the Second District of Texas at Fort Worth
DECIDED	February 26, 2026
DOCKET	02-24-00417-CR
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Jackson appealed his felony-murder conviction after a jury found him guilty on count two of the indictment and assessed seventy years' confinement. He challenged the legal sufficiency of the evidence and the exclusion of defense exhibits offered to show an accomplice witness's bias.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court reviewed evidentiary sufficiency under the Jackson v. Virginia legal-sufficiency standard, viewing the evidence in the light most favorable to the verdict and asking whether any rational factfinder could have found the essential elements beyond a reasonable doubt. It reviewed the trial court's evidentiary ruling for abuse of discretion, affirming if the ruling was within the zone of reasonable disagreement or correct under any applicable theory of law.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	nonprecedential

PARTIES

Christon L. Jackson v. The State of Texas

TOPICS

criminal procedure

evidence

appellate procedure

standard of review

PRACTICE AREAS

criminal law

criminal procedure

appellate practice

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the evidence was legally sufficient to prove that Jackson caused Farid's death by committing an act clearly dangerous to human life during the robbery.
2. Whether the trial court violated Jackson's Sixth Amendment Confrontation Clause rights by excluding defense exhibits offered to show accomplice witness Maurice Washington's bias.

HOLDINGS

1. The evidence was legally sufficient to support the finding that, during the robbery, Jackson inflicted the blunt-force head injury that caused Farid's death.
2. The trial court did not abuse its discretion or violate the Confrontation Clause by excluding the three defense exhibits concerning Washington's older family-violence charges and related documents.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"Thus, we hold that the evidence is legally sufficient to support that, in the course of the robbery, Jackson inflicted the blunt-force injury to Farid that caused his death." (12)

"Thus, defense exhibits 11, 12, and 13 were not relevant in this instance." (19)

"Having overruled both issues, we affirm the trial court's judgment." (20)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Piyush Farid went to a Fort Worth motel after being lured there by April Contreras under false pretenses as part of a plan to rob him. Evidence showed that Jackson participated in the plan, entered the motel room, took Farid's property, and struck him during the robbery. Farid sustained head injuries, including an epidural hematoma caused by blunt-force trauma, and died several days later. Accomplice witness Maurice Washington testified for the State pursuant to a plea agreement, and the trial court excluded several exhibits concerning older family-violence charges while admitting substantial other evidence of Washington's criminal history and bias.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

A jury found Jackson not guilty on count one and guilty of felony murder as charged in count two; it did not reach the remaining counts. The trial court sentenced him in accordance with the jury's seventy-year recommendation. The Second Court of Appeals affirmed after overruling both appellate issues.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- Jackson v. Virginia, 443 U.S. 307, 319 (1979)
- Queeman v. State, 520 S.W.3d 616, 622 (Tex. Crim. App. 2017)
- Harrell v. State, 620 S.W.3d 910, 914 (Tex. Crim. App. 2021)
- Martin v. State, 635 S.W.3d 672, 679 (Tex. Crim. App. 2021)
- Braughton v. State, 569 S.W.3d 592, 608 (Tex. Crim. App. 2018)
- Villa v. State, 514 S.W.3d 227, 232 (Tex. Crim. App. 2017)
- Carter v. State, 620 S.W.3d 147, 149 (Tex. Crim. App. 2021)
- Zuniga v. State, 551 S.W.3d 729, 739 (Tex. Crim. App. 2018)
- Tate v. State, 500 S.W.3d 410, 413 (Tex. Crim. App. 2016)
- Temple v. State, 390 S.W.3d 341, 363 (Tex. Crim. App. 2013)
- Williams v. State, 937 S.W.2d 479, 482 (Tex. Crim. App. 1996)
- Jimenez v. State, No. 02-23-00348-CR, 2025 WL 211319, at *6 (Tex. App.—Fort Worth Jan. 16, 2025)
- Nguyen v. State, 693 S.W.3d 732, 736-37 (Tex. App.—Houston [14th Dist.] 2024)
- Briones v. State, 692 S.W.3d 828, 840 (Tex. App.—San Antonio 2024)
- Mixon v. State, 781 S.W.2d 345, 346 (Tex. App.—Houston [14th Dist.] 1989), *aff'd*, 804 S.W.2d 107 (Tex. Crim. App. 1991)
- Stanul v. State, 870 S.W.2d 329, 334-35 (Tex. App.—Austin 1994)
- Johnson v. State, 490 S.W.3d 895, 897 & n.1 (Tex. Crim. App. 2016)
- Jones v. State, 571 S.W.3d 764, 765 (Tex. Crim. App. 2019)
- Davis v. State, 203 S.W.3d 845, 851 (Tex. Crim. App. 2006)
- Colone v. State, 573 S.W.3d 249, 263-64 (Tex. Crim. App. 2019)
- Henley v. State, 493 S.W.3d 77, 83 (Tex. Crim. App. 2016)
- Taylor v. State, 268 S.W.3d 571, 579 (Tex. Crim. App. 2008)
- Irby v. State, 327 S.W.3d 138, 145, 151-52 (Tex. Crim. App. 2010)
- Wamsley v. State, No. 2-06-089-CR, 2008 WL 706610, at *8 (Tex. App.—Fort Worth Mar. 13, 2008)
- Ramirez v. State, 802 S.W.2d 674, 676 (Tex. Crim. App. 1990)
- Keller v. State, 662 S.W.2d 362, 365 (Tex. Crim. App. 1984)
- Johnson v. State, 433 S.W.3d 546, 552-53 (Tex. Crim. App. 2014)
- Woods v. State, 152 S.W.3d 105, 111 (Tex. Crim. App. 2004)
- Smith v. State, 352 S.W.3d 55, 64 (Tex. App.—Fort Worth 2011)
- Turner v. State, No. 05-22-00785-CR, 2023 WL 7037162, at *4 (Tex. App.—Dallas Oct. 26, 2023)
- Chavez v. State, No. 02-22-00090-CV, 2023 WL 7400981, at *5 (Tex. App.—Fort Worth Nov. 9, 2023)

- Mosley v. State, 983 S.W.2d 249, 259 (Tex. Crim. App. 1998)
- Guerra v. State, 942 S.W.2d 28, 33 (Tex. App.—Corpus Christi-Edinburg 1996)
- Womble v. State, 618 S.W.2d 59, 61 (Tex. Crim. App. [Panel Op.] 1981)
- Morgan v. State, 740 S.W.2d 57, 59 (Tex. App.—Dallas 1987)
- Simmons v. State, 548 S.W.2d 386, 388 (Tex. Crim. App. 1977)

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