

LOUISIANA COURT OF APPEAL, SECOND CIRCUIT

State of Louisiana v. Antonio Lacedric Johnson

Johnson · No. 56,683-KA · Decided December 17, 2025

SUMMARY

The Louisiana Second Circuit Court of Appeal affirmed Antonio Lacedric Johnson’s manslaughter conviction and 70-year habitual-offender sentence. The court held that the evidence, viewed in the light most favorable to the prosecution, allowed the jury to reject Johnson’s self-defense claim and find him guilty of manslaughter.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Louisiana Court of Appeal, Second Circuit
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Cox, J.; Cox; Stephens; Marcotte
JURISDICTION	Louisiana Court of Appeal, Second Circuit
DECIDED	December 17, 2025
DOCKET	56,683-KA
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Johnson appealed his convictions and sentence after a unanimous jury found him guilty of manslaughter and the trial court sentenced him as a second-felony habitual offender to 70 years' imprisonment at hard labor. He argued that the State failed to disprove self-defense beyond a reasonable doubt.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	For a sufficiency-of-the-evidence claim, the court viewed the evidence in the light most favorable to the prosecution and asked whether any rational trier of fact could have found the essential elements of the offense proven beyond a reasonable doubt. When self-defense is claimed, the same standard applies to whether any rational trier of fact could have found beyond a reasonable doubt that the homicide was not committed in self-defense. The appellate court does not assess witness credibility or reweigh evidence and gives great deference to the jury's credibility determinations.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published Louisiana Court of Appeal opinion
PARTIES	Antonio Lacedric Johnson v. State of Louisiana

TOPICS

self defense

criminal procedure

standard of review

appellate procedure

sentencing

PRACTICE AREAS

Criminal law

Criminal procedure

Appellate law

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the evidence was sufficient to support Johnson's manslaughter conviction when he claimed the homicide was committed in self-defense.
2. Whether the conviction and 70-year habitual-offender sentence should be reversed.

HOLDINGS

1. The evidence was sufficient for a rational jury, viewing the evidence in the light most favorable to the prosecution, to find beyond a reasonable doubt that the homicide was not committed in self-defense.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The standard of appellate review for a sufficiency of the evidence claim is whether, after viewing the evidence in the light most favorable to the prosecution, any rational trier of fact could have found the essential elements of the crime proven beyond a reasonable doubt.” (6)

“When the defendant claims self-defense, the State has the burden to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the homicide was not committed in self-defense.” (7)

“Considering the evidence presented at trial, we do not find the jury was erroneous in rejecting Johnson’s self-defense claim and finding him guilty of manslaughter.” (8)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Johnson shot Travarrius Adams multiple times at an apartment complex in Shreveport, killing him. The evidence showed that Adams was in a Chrysler with Andrea Small and two children when Johnson exited a nearby Nissan and fired into the Chrysler; investigators recovered 13 shell casings fired from the same weapon and found no firearm on Adams or in the vehicles. Johnson testified that he feared Adams because of their prior history and believed Adams's approach was threatening, while other witnesses testified that Adams had not threatened Johnson and did not possess a gun.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Johnson was arrested for second-degree murder arising from the shooting death of Travarrius Adams. A jury instead found him guilty of manslaughter. The trial court denied his motions for post-verdict judgment of acquittal and new trial, sentenced him to 70 years as a second-felony habitual offender, and denied his motion to reconsider sentence. The Louisiana Court of Appeal, Second Circuit, affirmed the conviction and sentence.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- Jackson v. Virginia, 443 U.S. 307, 99 S. Ct. 2781, 61 L. Ed. 2d 560 (1979)
- State v. Ward, 50,872 (La. App. 2 Cir. 11/16/16), 209 So. 3d 228, writ denied, 17-0164 (La. 9/22/17), 227 So. 3d 827
- State v. Bass, 51,411 (La. App. 2 Cir. 6/21/17), 223 So. 3d 1242
- State v. Alexander, 51,918 (La. App. 2 Cir. 4/11/18), 247 So. 3d 981, writ denied, 18-0805 (La. 2/11/19), 263 So. 3d 436
- State v. Allen, 50,703 (La. App. 2 Cir. 8/10/16), 200 So. 3d 376, writ denied, 16-1734 (La. 9/6/17), 224 So. 3d 981
- State v. Edwards, 49,635 (La. App. 2 Cir. 2/26/15), 162 So. 3d 512, writ denied, 15-0628 (La. 2/5/16), 186 So. 3d 1163
- State v. Jones, 48,458 (La. App. 2 Cir. 11/20/13), 128 So. 3d 593, writ denied, 13-2926 (La. 5/30/14), 140 So. 3d 1173