

LOUISIANA COURT OF APPEAL, SECOND CIRCUIT

State of Louisiana v. Shaquille Wonyae Bradford

No. 56,768-KA · No. 56,768-KA · Decided May 20, 2026

SUMMARY

The Louisiana Court of Appeal, Second Circuit, affirmed Shaquille Wonyae Bradford’s conviction for aggravated second degree battery and his 25-year sentence as a second felony habitual offender. The court rejected his arguments concerning sufficiency of the evidence, inconsistency between the aggravated battery conviction and firearm-possession acquittal, and excessive sentencing. It instructed the trial court to amend the minutes to remove the restriction on parole eligibility.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Louisiana Court of Appeal, Second Circuit
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Pitman, C.J.; Stone, J.; Stephens, J.
JURISDICTION	Louisiana Court of Appeal, Second Circuit
DECIDED	May 20, 2026
DOCKET	56,768-KA
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Defendant appealed his jury conviction for aggravated second degree battery, his adjudication as a second felony habitual offender, and his 25-year enhanced sentence.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	For sufficiency of the evidence, whether, viewing the evidence in the light most favorable to the prosecution, any rational trier of fact could have found every essential element beyond a reasonable doubt. For excessive sentencing, whether the trial court complied with Louisiana Code of Criminal Procedure article 894.1 and whether the sentence is constitutionally excessive; a sentence within statutory limits is reviewed for abuse of discretion.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published and precedential
PARTIES	Shaquille Wonyae Bradford v. State of Louisiana

TOPICS

- criminal procedure
- evidence
- sentencing
- standard of review
- appellate procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

criminal law

criminal procedure

sentencing

appellate practice

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the evidence was sufficient to prove aggravated second degree battery when the alleged dangerous weapon was a firearm and the jury acquitted defendant of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.
2. Whether the guilty verdict for aggravated second degree battery was legally inconsistent with the acquittal for possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.
3. Whether the 25-year sentence imposed on defendant as a second felony habitual offender was constitutionally excessive or an abuse of sentencing discretion.
4. Whether the sentencing minutes should be corrected because they improperly stated that the sentence was imposed without benefit of parole.

HOLDINGS

1. The evidence was sufficient to support the conviction because the State proved that Bradford intentionally inflicted serious bodily injury on Hill by striking her with an instrumentality that, as used, was calculated or likely to produce great bodily harm.
2. The aggravated second degree battery conviction was not legally inconsistent with the acquittal for possession of a firearm by a convicted felon because the two offenses contain different elements.
3. The 25-year sentence was not constitutionally excessive and did not constitute an abuse of discretion.
4. The sentencing minutes must be amended to remove the restriction on parole eligibility because neither the aggravated battery statute nor the habitual-offender statute imposed that restriction.

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 beyond a reasonable doubt.” (p. 4)

“The elements of each crime are different, and a reasonable jury could listen to the evidence presented and reach the conclusion that Defendant struck Hill with a gun, a dangerous weapon he held in his hand, and still find the state failed to prove he was a felon in possession of a firearm.” (p. 6)

“AFFIRMED, WITH INSTRUCTIONS FOR CORRECTION OF MINUTES.” (p. 10)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

After an August 2024 altercation in Caddo Parish, Olivia Hill ran from her house with blood on her shirt and told police that her attacker was inside. Officers observed Bradford emerge from the house and flee while holding a firearm, and Hill testified that Bradford struck her in the head and face with the gun, causing deep lacerations

and later seizures. Police recovered a firearm along the driveway between nearby houses. The jury convicted Bradford of aggravated second degree battery but acquitted him of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Bradford was charged with possession of a firearm or carrying a concealed weapon by a convicted felon and aggravated second degree battery. A jury convicted him of aggravated second degree battery and acquitted him of firearm possession by a convicted felon. The trial court denied his motion in arrest of judgment, adjudicated him a second felony habitual offender, imposed a 25-year sentence, and denied his motion to reconsider sentence. The Louisiana Court of Appeal, Second Circuit, affirmed the conviction and sentence but ordered correction of the sentencing minutes.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

The trial court must amend the minutes to reflect that the 25-year sentence was imposed without benefit of probation or suspension of sentence, with no restriction on parole eligibility.

CASES CITED

- Jackson v. Virginia, 443 U.S. 307, 99 S. Ct. 2781, 61 L. Ed. 2d 560 (1979)
- State v. Hearold, 603 So. 2d 731 (La. 1992)
- State v. Smith, 47,983 (La. App. 2 Cir. 5/15/13), 116 So. 3d 884
- State v. Casey, 99-0023 (La. 1/26/00), 775 So. 2d 1022, cert. denied, 531 U.S. 840, 121 S. Ct. 104, 148 L. Ed. 2d 62 (2000)
- State v. Smith, 94-3116 (La. 10/16/95), 661 So. 2d 442
- State v. Gilliam, 36,118 (La. App. 2 Cir. 8/30/02), 827 So. 2d 508, writ denied, 02-3090 (La. 11/14/03), 858 So. 2d 422
- State v. Banks, 48,868 (La. App. 2 Cir. 2/26/14), 134 So. 3d 1235, 1243, writ denied, 14-0671 (La. 12/8/14), 153 So. 3d 432
- State v. McClure, 34,880 (La. App. 2 Cir. 8/22/01), 793 So. 2d 454
- State v. Sullivan, 49,183 (La. App. 2 Cir. 8/13/14), 146 So. 3d 952
- State v. Jones, 398 So. 2d 1049 (La. 1981)
- State v. Quiambao, 36,587 (La. App. 2 Cir. 12/11/02), 833 So. 2d 1103, writ denied, 03-0477 (La. 5/16/03), 843 So. 2d 1130
- State v. Lanclos, 419 So. 2d 475 (La. 1982)
- State v. Bonanno, 384 So. 2d 355 (La. 1980)