

Opening Statement

Luke Priest

Period 1

May it please the Court, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Jury, I am Luke Priest and this is my co-counsel, Kylie Eason. We represent the defendant, Riley Gardner in this case.

On May 11, 2015, Riley Gardner, a new driver on the road, unfortunately skidded out of control due to poor weather conditions. This is a case that **anything can happen in a blink of an eye**. A case about a young woman named Sidney Young who was hurt not by negligence but by a loss of control from a new driver. A driver of 2 years, a driver that even took an optional safety course, was driving in significant weather conditions which caused the vehicle to hydroplane. You will meet Alex Williams, a friend and next-door neighbor of Riley since the 2nd grade, someone who was sitting in the back seat when the accident occurred, and knows Mr. Gardner very well. Ms. Williams will testify that Mr. Gardner is a very safe driver and did not even have the phone in his hand when the accident occurred. The prosecution will tell you that this is a case of a young man who neglected the law and his responsibilities of keeping all passengers in the vehicle safe by texting while driving. However, this is not true, Mr. Gardner respected the law and his responsibilities of keeping everyone in the car safe by passing on the phone. Ms. Young's pain was caused by the vehicle hydroplaning due to the poor weather conditions, which causes many focused drivers to get in an accident every year. Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, based on the evidence you will hear, we hope you will see that **anything can happen in a blink of an eye**, especially even a new, safe and responsible driver like Riley Gardner, can get in an accident, and reach the conclusion that he is not guilty in this case, thank you.