# Trial Toolkit – People v. Reginald Buddy Ringgold III

Prepared: April 06, 2025

## I. Opening Statement (For April 9 Trial)

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen of the jury.  
  
My name is Reginald Buddy Ringgold III, and I stand before you not only as the defendant, but as someone fighting for truth, fairness, and the right to be heard.  
  
This is not just about what the prosecution is claiming. This is about what they are not showing you. This is about what’s missing—witnesses who changed their story, video that contradicts their version, and most importantly, the truth they don’t want you to see.  
  
You will hear about Emmanuel Davis, who gave a sworn affidavit saying I did not do what I’m accused of. You may hear about Melissa Paradise, who was present and who has stated under oath that there was no gun, no threat, and no violence. These aren’t strangers — they are the people the prosecution ignored.  
  
I ask you to listen carefully. Ask yourself: Where are the witnesses? Where is the proof? And why have I been denied the basic right to confront my accusers?  
  
At the end of this trial, I believe you’ll see that the charges do not match the facts. I trust that you’ll return a verdict based on truth, not pressure, and I thank you for your attention and your service.

## II. Voir Dire Questions (Jury Selection)

1. Have you or anyone close to you ever been falsely accused of something?  
2. Do you believe that someone can be arrested or charged even if they didn’t commit a crime?  
3. Can you think of a time when police got something wrong?  
4. Do you think someone should be found guilty just because they’re sitting in the defendant’s chair?  
5. Do you understand that the burden of proof is 100% on the prosecution — not me?  
6. Would you feel uncomfortable voting 'Not Guilty' even if you had doubts?  
7. Do you believe that someone can be a credible witness even if they don’t want to testify for the DA?  
8. Can you set aside any feelings about self-represented defendants and judge me only on the evidence?  
9. If the prosecution fails to bring in witnesses or physical proof, can you still vote 'Not Guilty'?  
10. Is there anything about this case that makes you feel you couldn’t be fair and impartial?

## III. Motion for Directed Verdict (If DA Fails to Present Witnesses)

Your Honor,  
  
At this time, I respectfully move for a directed verdict of acquittal under Penal Code § 1118.1.  
  
The prosecution has failed to produce any live witnesses to support the charges, and no evidence has been presented that could establish guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. The testimony of police officers alone, without firsthand accusers or material evidence, is insufficient to sustain the charges.  
  
Furthermore, the People have failed to rebut exculpatory evidence already submitted, including the sworn affidavit of Emmanuel Davis. Absent any witness testimony to establish the alleged conduct or threat, the case must be dismissed in the interest of justice.  
  
I respectfully request that the Court grant my motion and enter a judgment of acquittal at this time.