

BOISE, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2025, AT 10:00 A.M.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO

STATE OF IDAHO,)	
)	
Plaintiff-Respondent,)	
)	Docket No. 52335
v.)	
)	
EMERSON CLYDE BUCK, IV,)	
)	
Defendant-Appellant.)	
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Appeal from the District Court of the Fourth Judicial District of the State of Idaho,
Ada County. Jason D. Scott, District Judge.

Erik R. Lehtinen, State Appellate Public Defender, Boise, for Appellant.

Raúl R. Labrador, Idaho Attorney General, Boise, for Respondent.

This is an appeal from a first degree murder conviction. In January of 2020, Emerson C. Buck IV (“Buck”) was charged with murdering his paternal uncle, James Buck, in a two-bedroom trailer in Garden City. During voir dire, the prosecutor used a peremptory strike against the only black juror in the venire, Juror 17. Buck raised a *Batson* challenge, but the district court denied it, concluding the State had not exercised its peremptory strike with purposeful discrimination. After a six-day jury trial and four hours of deliberation, the jury found Buck guilty. Buck appealed.

On appeal, Buck raised four points of error. First, Buck maintained that the district court committed reversible error by denying his *Batson* challenge. Second, Buck argued that he was denied his constitutional right to a fair trial because the district court impermissibly limited defense counsel’s cross-examination of a detective who investigated the case. Third, Buck contended the district court wrongly prevented him from arguing an alibi defense at closing argument. Last, Buck argued that cumulatively, these errors deprived him of a fair trial.

The Court of Appeals affirmed Buck conviction. In an unpublished opinion, the Court of Appeals held that: (1) the district court did not err in denying Buck’s *Batson* challenge; (2) the district court did not err in limiting evidence of an alternate perpetrator; (3) the district court did not err in preventing Buck from arguing an undisclosed alibi; and (4) the cumulative error doctrine did not apply because Buck failed to demonstrate at least two errors. Thereafter, Buck petitioned for review to the Idaho Supreme Court.