

MOSCOW, IDAHO, APRIL 9, 2025, AT 8:50 A.M.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO

STATE OF IDAHO,)	
)	
Plaintiff-Respondent,)	Docket No. 52221-2024
)	
v.)	
)	
DWAYNE EDWARD BEST,)	
)	
Defendant-Appellant.)	
)	

Appeal from the District Court of the First Judicial District of the State of Idaho, Kootenai County. John T. Mitchell, District Judge.

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

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

Federal Defender Services of Idaho, Boise; Attorneys of Idaho, Boise; Furguson Durham PLLC, Boise; and Law Office of B.C. McComas, LLP, San Francisco, California (pro hac vice), for Amicus Idaho Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

Dwayne Edward Best appeals from his judgment of conviction for possession of a controlled substance with the intent to deliver, trafficking a controlled substance, and unlawful possession of a firearm. Best's charges were based on evidence found during a warrantless search of his room by probation officers and other law enforcement. He moved to suppress evidence obtained during that warrantless search, claiming the search exceeded the scope of his Fourth Amendment probation waiver. The district court denied the motion and concluded Best was on probation at the time of the search and his probation waiver allowed any law enforcement officer to conduct a probation search.

Following the denial of his motion to suppress, Best's case went to a jury trial. Before closing argument and after a request from the State, the district court prevented Best from discussing law enforcement's body camera footage, finding that Idaho Criminal Rule 16 prevented the discussion. Additionally, the district court sustained the State's relevancy objection to Best's closing argument regarding the State's charging decision. The jury found Best guilty on all charges. The district court imposed the same sentence for each of the convictions: a unified term of life in prison with ten years fixed. The district court ordered the sentences be served concurrently.

On appeal, Best argues that the district court erred by denying his motion to suppress. He argues that the search exceeded the scope of his Fourth Amendment probation waiver and was otherwise unreasonable. Best also argues that the district court erred by limiting the scope of his closing argument in violation of his Sixth Amendment right to present a defense.

Best's appeal was assigned to the Idaho Court of Appeals, which affirmed the district court. Best filed a petition for review with the Idaho Supreme Court, requesting the Court review his case, and the Court granted Best's petition.