

SUMMARY STATEMENT

State v. Weigle

Docket No. 46577

Eric Livingston Weigle was found guilty of robbing a credit union. During the trial, the State's forensic scientist used a PowerPoint presentation to explain how she matched one of Weigle's known fingerprints to one found on the note used in the robbery. At trial, the presentation was admitted as an exhibit for demonstrative purposes without objection. It was then published to the jury. During its deliberations, the jury asked for a copy of the PowerPoint presentation. Weigle's counsel objected; however, the district court overruled the objection and provided the jury with the presentation. The jury found Weigle guilty.

The Idaho Supreme Court held that Idaho Code section 19-2203 encroaches upon the Court's constitutional authority to establish the procedural rules for the Idaho courts. Accordingly, the statute was viewed as a nullity and unhelpful in establishing the procedure to be used by Idaho district courts. Instead, the Court determined that district courts have the discretion to determine how demonstrative exhibits will be used during trial.