SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA

No. 2018-K-0134

STATE OF LOUISIANA

VERSUS

JOSEPH MICHAEL MOULTRIE

ON WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE COURT OF APPEAL, FIRST CIRCUIT, PARISH OF TERREBONNE

GENOVESE, J., would grant for the reasons assigned by Judge Holdridge and additionally avers: there was no evidence that defendant was in possession of any drugs, drug paraphernalia, any large sum of money, or any evidence associated with drug use or trafficking; there was no proof or connection between defendant and the cocaine found in the BBQ grill; the BBQ grill was not defendant's grill; the grill where the drugs were found was not seized as evidence, nor identified from any photograph at trial; defendant did not live on the property where the grill was located; and, there were no witnesses to this event. At best, this is a circumstantial evidence case. In circumstantial evidence cases, La.R.S. 15:438 requires the State to exclude every reasonable hypothesis of innocence. This, I find, the State failed to do.