07/19/2016 "See News Release 039 for any Concurrences and/or Dissents."

SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA

NO. 2016-KD-1361

STATE OF LOUISIANA

VERSUS

MARKEISHA LEWIS

ON SUPERVISORY WRITS TO THE 24TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT FOR THE PARISH OF JEFFERSON

Writ granted. We find that the trial court abused its discretion in finding the defendant's rap video inadmissible. Provided that a sufficient foundation is established, the defendant's inculpatory rap video is relevant under La. C.E. art. 401. It is likewise admissible under C.E. art. 404(B), as it constitutes proof of "motive, opportunity, intent, preparation, plan, knowledge, identity, absence of mistake or accident." If the defendant decides to testify, she is of course free to argue otherwise. However, this issue goes to the weight of the evidence and not its admissibility, and the jury is entitled to hear the evidence and accord it the weight it deserves, if any. Finally, the probative value of the defendant's apparently prophetic words outweighs "the danger of unfair prejudice" under La. C.E. art. 403. We therefore grant the writ and reverse the decision of the trial court.