

02/10/2020 "See News Release 006 for any Concurrences and/or Dissents."

SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA

No. 2019-KK-1907

STATE OF LOUISIANA

VERSUS

CHRYSTAL CLUES-ALEXANDER

**ON SUPERVISORY WRIT TO THE SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL
DISTRICT COURT, PARISH OF ST. MARTIN**

PER CURIAM

Writ granted. The order granting Judge Comeaux's recusal is hereby reversed. We find it noteworthy the motion to recuse was filed after Judge Comeaux had already accepted the defendant's guilty plea, albeit before sentencing. Further, we do not find the potential for bias for the average judge in this position is unconstitutionally high. Rather, we find instructive a comment to La. Code Crim. P. art. 651: "If the district judge has signed restraining orders in a civil suit involving the same allegations as the charges in the criminal prosecution, he is not subject to recusation for having performed a judicial act in the cause 'in another court.'" Even if the dismissal of the protective order was legally incorrect, and we are not expressing such an opinion, it would still only be classified as an adverse ruling performed within a judge's authority. Adverse rulings, alone, do not show bias or prejudice requiring recusal.