



MUNIAL '26

US Supreme Court

Study Guide

FREEDOM

MAKE AMERICA
GREAT AGAIN

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Introduction

Letter From the Secretary-General

Dear Attendees,

It is an honor to welcome you all to the 7th annual session of İzmir Atatürk Lisesi Model United Nations Conference. I am Duru Kılıç, your Secretary-General. If you are reading this letter, you probably already know why you should be here, but let us remind you once more.

MUNIAL is a legacy preserved by generations, now bestowed upon us by our upperclassmen. Being entrusted with this conference was not an easy feat; so you can be sure that we are no amateurs when it comes to MUN, and that it isn't a coincidence you are attending the best. Our esteemed Director-General, Can Karadağ, and I have sacrificed months, if not years, working for our titles. But it wasn't just for MUNIAL; it was for the journey where we grew, improved, and found the best versions of ourselves. Now we stand proud, confident that this year will be no short of what our upperclassmen showed us, if not better.

MUN isn't just an academic achievement, though. This is a free space where you can improve your people skills, make new connections, have fun, and enhance your cultural knowledge. For me, this journey was one where I found family, and now I am honored to be the one creating the opportunity for others to do the same.

Sincerely,

Duru Kılıç

Letter From the Under-Secretary-General

Greetings delegates,

I would like to welcome you all to MUNIAL'26 and the committee of the United States Supreme Court. I am Kaan Cansızođlu and I will be serving you as your Under-Secretary-General for the upcoming three days. I am a prep year student of Textile and Fashion Design at Izmir University of Economics. I've been attending Model United Nations conferences for more than three years now and I assure you that you will have an unforgettable experience in this prestigious conference and this well prepared committee.

If you have any questions regarding any topic whether it be related to our committee, MUN conferences or my major, I would be glad to answer at any time of day; so please don't hesitate to contact me or my academic team or me.

I wish you an enjoyable conference and see you in MUNIAL'26!

Under-Secretary-General
Kaan Cansızođlu

Procedure

Initial Structure

Courtroom Setup and Participants

Key Participants:

- Presiding Judge – Oversees the hearing, ensures legal procedures are followed, rules on motions, and may issue decisions.
- Court Clerk – Manages court records, case files, and schedules.
- Court Reporter – Creates an official transcript of the proceedings.
- Bailiff (Court Officer) – Ensures security and maintains order in the courtroom.
- Prosecutor (Assistant District Attorney – ADA) – Represents "The People" (State of New York) and presents evidence against the defendant.
- Defense Counsel (Private Attorney or Public Defender) – Represents the defendant, argues for their rights, and challenges the prosecution's case.
- Defendant (Accused Individual) – The person charged with a crime, who may be present in custody or out on bail.
- Witnesses – Individuals called by either side to provide testimony.
- Jury (if applicable) – In felony trials, a 12-member jury is selected to determine the defendant's guilt or innocence.

Pre-Hearing Formalities

Before the hearing officially begins, the court follows a set of formal procedures.

A. Call to Order

- The court clerk announces:
"All rise. The Supreme Court of the State of New York, Criminal Branch, is now in session, the Honorable [Judge's Name] presiding."
- The judge enters, and everyone in the courtroom stands until the judge is seated.
- The judge signals the beginning of the hearing.

B. Case Introduction

- The court clerk reads the case details:
"This is the matter of The People of the State of New York versus [Defendant's Name], case number [Case Number]."
- The judge confirms the presence of all parties, including the prosecutor, defense attorney, and defendant.

Case Proceedings (Varies Based on Type of Hearing)

A hearing in the New York Supreme Court Criminal Branch varies depending on its purpose. Common hearings include arraignments, bail hearings, pre-trial motions, evidentiary hearings, and sentencing hearings.

A. Arraignment Hearing (Initial Court Appearance)

- The prosecution formally presents the charges against the defendant.
- The judge asks the defendant:
“How do you plead—guilty, not guilty, or no contest?”
- The defendant enters a plea:
 - “Not Guilty” → Case proceeds to pre-trial motions and trial.
 - “Guilty” → Sentencing is scheduled.
 - “No Contest” (Nolo Contendere) → No admission of guilt, but sentencing proceeds.
- The judge decides on bail (whether the defendant will remain in custody or be released).

B. Bail Hearing (Determining Release Conditions)

- The prosecution and defense argue whether the defendant should be released on bail.
- The judge considers:
 - Flight risk
 - Severity of charges
 - Public safety concerns
- The judge rules:
 - Bail granted with specific conditions.
 - Bail denied, requiring the defendant to remain in custody.

C. Pre-Trial Motions Hearing

- Defense or prosecution may file motions to:

- Suppress Evidence (Motion to Suppress) – Argue evidence was illegally obtained.
- Dismiss the Case (Motion to Dismiss) – Argue lack of evidence or procedural errors.
- Change Venue (Motion for Change of Venue) – Request a new trial location due to potential jury bias.
- The judge hears arguments, asks questions, and rules on the motions.

D. Evidentiary Hearing (Reviewing Evidence and Witness Testimony)

- The prosecution and defense present arguments on the admissibility of evidence.
- Witnesses or experts may be called to testify.
- The judge determines:
 - What evidence will be allowed at trial.
 - Whether any testimony should be excluded.

E. Plea Bargaining Hearing

- The prosecution and defense negotiate a plea agreement.
- The judge confirms:
 - The defendant voluntarily agrees to plead guilty.
 - The plea deal is fair and lawful.
- If accepted, the case moves directly to sentencing.

F. Sentencing Hearing

- If the defendant is convicted or pleads guilty, the judge determines punishment.
- The prosecution recommends a sentence (e.g., prison time, probation, fines).
- The defense argues for a reduced sentence.
- The judge issues a final sentence.

Closing of the Hearing

A. Final Orders

- The judge may issue:
 - A ruling on motions.

- A trial date if the case proceeds.
- A sentencing decision if applicable.

B. Court Clerk's Statement

- The court clerk announces: “This hearing is adjourned. The next scheduled hearing is on [Date].”

C. Judge's Departure

- The judge exits, and the bailiff announces the session is concluded.
- The defendant (if in custody) is returned to jail or released on bail.

Post-Hearing Processes

Depending on the judge's ruling, the case may proceed to:

- Trial (if motions are denied and no plea deal is reached).
- Sentencing (if the defendant is convicted or accepts a plea deal).
- Appeals Process (if the defense challenges the ruling).

A. Arrest and Initial Processing

i. Arrest

A criminal case commences when a person is arrested on suspicion of committing an offense.

Arrests may be made in two primary ways:

- **With a Warrant:** Law enforcement officials obtain a warrant from a judge based on probable cause, supported by an affidavit detailing the alleged crime. The warrant must specify the suspect's name, the offense, and any restrictions on law enforcement actions.
- **Without a Warrant:** Police officers can make warrantless arrests if a crime is committed in their presence or if they have reasonable grounds to believe the suspect has committed a felony. Probable cause must be established, and law enforcement must ensure constitutional compliance.

Upon arrest, the suspect is taken into police custody, and their Miranda Rights are read to them to ensure compliance with constitutional protections against self-incrimination (*Miranda v. Arizona*, 1966). If Miranda warnings are not given, any statements made by the suspect may be inadmissible in court.

ii. Booking

Following an arrest, the defendant undergoes a formal booking process, which includes:

- Recording personal details (name, date of birth, address, and physical description)
- Taking fingerprints and photographs
- Conducting a background check for prior offenses and outstanding warrants
- Inventorying personal possessions to ensure property is recorded
- Placement in a holding cell, pending arraignment

The arresting officer files an official criminal complaint, outlining the charges and factual basis for the arrest. This document serves as the foundation for formal charges brought by the Prosecutor.

B. Arraignment

The arraignment is the defendant's first appearance before a judge, typically occurring within 24 hours of arrest. It serves the following key functions:

i. Formal Reading of Charges

The judge reads the formal charges against the defendant, ensuring they understand the nature of the allegations. This information is crucial for due process, as per *Gideon v. Wainwright* (1963), which affirmed the right to legal representation at this stage.

ii. Entry of Plea

The defendant is asked to enter a plea to the charges:

- Not Guilty: The defendant denies the allegations, leading to further proceedings. This plea allows for full pre-trial procedures, including evidence review and potential dismissal motions.
- Guilty: The defendant admits guilt, leading directly to sentencing. The court must ensure the plea is made voluntarily and with full understanding of the consequences.
- No Contest (Nolo Contendere): The defendant does not dispute the charges but does not admit guilt, allowing for a conviction without an admission of liability. This plea is sometimes used to avoid civil liability.

iii. Bail Hearing

The judge determines whether the defendant should be released on bail or remain in custody until trial. Factors considered include:

- Flight Risk: Whether the defendant is likely to flee before trial.
- Criminal History: Prior offenses and previous failures to appear in court.
- Nature and Severity of the Charges: Violent crimes or offenses with high penalties may warrant denial of bail.
- Community Ties: Employment, family, and residence stability can influence bail decisions.

Bail may be granted in various forms:

- Cash Bail: Defendant must pay the full amount set by the court.
- Bail Bond: A third-party bondsman posts bail for a fee.
- Own Recognizance (ROR): The defendant is released without bail but must appear at future hearings.

Case Example: *People v. Jovanovic* (1999). In this case, Oliver Jovanovic was denied bail due to the serious nature of his kidnapping and assault charges, demonstrating the judiciary's discretion in high-profile or violent cases.

C. Pre-Trial Proceedings

Pre-trial proceedings allow both parties to prepare their cases, exchange evidence, and resolve legal disputes before trial.

i. Discovery Process

Discovery involves the mutual exchange of evidence between the prosecution and defense.

This includes:

- Police Reports: Arrest records and officer statements
- Witness Statements: Testimony collected from witnesses
- Physical Evidence: Weapons, forensic samples, and documentation
- Expert Testimony Reports: Evaluations from forensic scientists, medical examiners, or psychologists fail to disclose exculpatory evidence can result in case dismissal, as established in *Brady v. Maryland* (1963).

ii. Pre-Trial Motions

Both parties may file pre-trial motions, including:

- Motion to Suppress Evidence: Argues that evidence was obtained unlawfully (e.g., a Fourth Amendment violation in *Mapp v. Ohio*, 1961).
- Motion to Dismiss Charges: Asserts that insufficient evidence exists to sustain the charges.
- Motion for Change of Venue: Requests trial relocation due to potential jury bias.

iii. Plea Bargaining

A significant percentage of criminal cases are resolved through plea bargains. In exchange for pleading guilty to a lesser charge, the defendant may receive a reduced sentence.

Case Example: *People v. Weinstein* (2004). Harvey Weinstein initially entered plea negotiations before proceeding to trial, highlighting the strategic use of plea bargaining.

Trial Proceedings

If a case proceeds to trial, it follows strict procedural steps to ensure fairness.

A. Jury Selection (Voir Dire)

Potential jurors are questioned and vetted to eliminate bias. Attorneys may use:

- Peremptory Challenges: Dismissing jurors without needing to state a reason (limited number).
- Challenges for Cause: Removing jurors due to demonstrable bias.

B. Opening Statements

Both sides present an outline of their arguments and expected evidence.

C. Presentation of Evidence

The prosecution presents its case first, followed by the defense. Evidence includes:

- Direct Evidence: Surveillance footage, confessions
- Circumstantial Evidence: Inferences drawn from facts
- Expert Testimony: Forensic analysis. Cross-examination is allowed to challenge the credibility of witnesses.

Case Example: People v. O.J. Simpson (1995) Though not a New York case, this high-profile trial illustrated the significance of cross-examination and forensic evidence.

D. Closing Arguments

Both sides summarize their case, emphasizing key evidence and legal principles.

E. Jury Deliberation and Verdict

Jurors deliberate in private before returning a verdict:

- Guilty: The defendant is convicted.
- Not Guilty: The defendant is acquitted.
- Hung Jury: If jurors cannot reach a unanimous decision, a mistrial may be declared.

Key Phrases for Every Step of Court Proceedings

Arrest and Initial Processing

- Probable Cause – A reasonable belief, based on facts, that a crime has been committed and the suspect was involved. This is required for an arrest.
- Miranda Rights – The constitutional rights read to an arrested person, including the

right to remain silent and the right to an attorney (Miranda v. Arizona, 1966).

- Booking – The administrative process after an arrest, where personal information, fingerprints, and photographs are taken.
- Criminal Complaint – A formal written document filed by law enforcement or prosecutors detailing the charges against the defendant.

Arraignment

- Formal Reading of Charges – The court officially informs the defendant of the charges they face.
- Plea – A defendant's response to the charges (Not Guilty, Guilty, or No Contest).
- Bail – A sum of money or bond paid to secure a defendant's release while ensuring they appear for future court proceedings.
- Own Recognizance (ROR) – A release without bail based on the defendant's promise to return to court.

Pre-Trial Proceedings

- Discovery – The process where the prosecution and defense exchange evidence before trial.
- Exculpatory Evidence – Evidence that may prove the defendant's innocence, which the prosecution must disclose (Brady v. Maryland, 1963).
- Motion to Suppress – A request to exclude certain evidence from trial, often due to improper collection methods (e.g., unlawful search and seizure).
- Motion to Dismiss – A request to terminate the case due to lack of evidence or legal grounds.
- Plea Bargain – An agreement where the defendant pleads guilty to a lesser charge in exchange for a lighter sentence.

Trial Proceedings

- Voir Dire – The jury selection process where attorneys question potential jurors to ensure impartiality.
- Peremptory Challenge – A method of dismissing jurors without providing a reason, but limited in number.
- Challenge for Cause – Dismissing jurors for specific reasons, such as bias.
- Opening Statements – The prosecution and defense present an overview of their case to the jury.

- Burden of Proof – The prosecution's responsibility to prove the defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.
- Direct Examination – When a party questions its own witnesses.
- Cross-Examination – When opposing counsel questions a witness to test their credibility.
- Circumstantial Evidence – Indirect evidence that implies a fact but does not directly prove it.
- Expert Testimony – Opinions from specialists, such as forensic analysts, to help clarify evidence.
- Objection – A challenge to testimony or evidence based on legal grounds.
- Sustained – The judge agrees with the objection, and the statement/evidence is not considered.
- Overruled – The judge disagrees with the objection, and the statement/evidence is allowed.
- Closing Arguments – The final summary of the case presented by both sides before the jury deliberates.

Jury Deliberation and Verdict

- Jury Instructions – The judge's guidance to the jury on how to apply the law to the evidence presented.
- Guilty – A verdict confirming the defendant committed the crime beyond a reasonable doubt.
- Not Guilty – A verdict meaning the prosecution failed to prove the defendant's guilt.
- Hung Jury – When jurors cannot reach a unanimous decision, leading to a mistrial.
- Mistrial – A trial that is invalid due to procedural errors or a deadlocked jury.

Sentencing

- Aggravating Factors – Circumstances that increase the severity of the crime, leading to harsher punishment.
- Mitigating Factors – Circumstances that reduce the severity of the crime, leading to a lesser sentence.
- Concurrent Sentences – When multiple sentences run at the same time.
- Consecutive Sentences – When multiple sentences run one after another.
- Probation – A sentence allowing the defendant to remain free under court-imposed conditions
- Parole – Early supervised release from prison, with conditions.

Appeals

- Appellate Review – A higher court’s examination of the trial process for legal errors.
- Habeas Corpus – A legal action challenging the legality of imprisonment.
- Reversal – Overturning the trial court’s decision due to legal errors.
- Remand – Sending the case back to a lower court for further proceedings.

Formal Courtroom Language

Arrest and Initial Processing

- “You are under arrest for [specific crime]. You have the right to remain silent...” (Miranda Rights)
- “Do you understand these rights as they have been read to you?” (Confirmation of Miranda Rights)
- “We have a warrant for your arrest, issued by [Judge’s Name], dated [date].”
- “We are booking you on the charge of [specific charge] under [specific penal code section].”
- “Bail will be determined by the court at your arraignment.”

Arraignment

Parties Involved:

- Judge
- Prosecution (District Attorney’s Office)
- Defense Counsel (Private Attorney or Public Defender)
- Defendant
- Court Clerk
- Bailiff
- Court Reporter

Formal Court Language During Arraignment

- Judge: “The court is now in session, the Honorable [Judge’s Name] presiding.”
- Court Clerk: “Case number [number], People of the State of New York versus [Defendant’s Name].”
- Judge: “Mr./Ms. [Defendant’s Last Name], you are charged with [crime]. How do you plead?”
- Defense Attorney: “Your Honor, my client pleads Not Guilty/Guilty/No Contest.”

- Prosecutor: “Your Honor, the People request that bail be set at [amount] due to [flight risk, severity of crime, prior criminal record].”
- Defense Attorney: “Your Honor, we ask that the defendant be released on their own recognizance as they are not a flight risk and have strong community ties.”
- Judge: “Bail is set at [amount]/Bail is denied/The defendant is released on their own recognizance.”
- Judge: “This case is set for a preliminary hearing on [date].”

Pre-Trial Proceedings

Discovery Process Phrases

- Prosecutor: “Your Honor, the People have complied with all discovery obligations pursuant to CPL [Criminal Procedure Law] 245.20 and have provided all evidence to the defense.”
- Defense Attorney: “Your Honor, we request additional discovery materials, specifically [specific evidence, police reports, bodycam footage, forensic reports].”
- Judge: “The prosecution is ordered to comply with the defense’s request within [timeframe].”

Pre-Trial Motions Phrases

- Defense Attorney: “Your Honor, we move to suppress evidence obtained in violation of the Fourth Amendment, specifically [evidence].”
- Prosecutor: “The People oppose the motion. The evidence was lawfully obtained under [legal precedent].”
- Judge: “The motion to suppress is granted/denied.”
- Defense Attorney: “We move for a dismissal of charges on the grounds of insufficient evidence.”
- Prosecutor: “The People submit that there is sufficient evidence to proceed to trial.”
- Judge: “The motion to dismiss is granted/denied.”

Trial Proceedings

Jury Selection (Voir Dire) Phrases

- Judge: “Counsel, you may question the prospective jurors.”
- Defense Attorney: “Juror Number [#], have you or a family member ever been involved in a similar case?”
- Prosecutor: “Juror Number [#], do you have any biases that may prevent you from being fair and impartial in this case?”

- Defense Attorney: “Your Honor, we exercise a peremptory challenge to excuse this Juror.”

Opening Statements

- Prosecutor: “Your Honor, members of the jury, today the People will present evidence that proves beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant, [Defendant’s Name], committed [crime]. You will hear from witnesses, review physical evidence, and understand the full weight of the defendant’s actions.”
- Defense Attorney: “Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, the prosecution must prove its case beyond a reasonable doubt. The evidence will show that my client is not guilty. You will hear inconsistencies in the testimony and see that the prosecution’s case is built on assumptions rather than facts.”

Presentation of Evidence

- Prosecutor: “The People call [Witness’s Name] to the stand.”
- Judge: “Witness, do you solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?”
- Witness: “I do.”
- Defense Attorney: “Objection, Your Honor! The question is leading.”
- Judge: “Sustained/Overruled.”
- Prosecutor: “Your Honor, we move to enter Exhibit [#] into evidence.”
- Judge: “Exhibit [#] is admitted into evidence.”

Cross-Examination

- Defense Attorney: “Mr./Ms. [Witness’s Last Name], isn’t it true that on the night in question, you were unable to clearly see the suspect?”
- Prosecutor: “Objection, argumentative.”
- Judge: “Sustained. Counsel, please rephrase.”

Closing Arguments

- Prosecutor: “Members of the jury, based on the evidence presented, there is no reasonable doubt that the defendant is guilty.”
- Defense Attorney: “The prosecution has failed to meet its burden of proof. There is doubt, and where there is doubt, there must be an acquittal.”

Jury Deliberation and Verdict

- Judge: “Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, you are now instructed to deliberate and return a verdict.”
- Court Clerk: “Members of the jury, have you reached a verdict?”

- Jury Foreperson: “Yes, Your Honor.”
- Judge: “What is your verdict?”
- Jury Foreperson: “We find the defendant guilty/not guilty.”
- Judge: “The court accepts the verdict and will now proceed to sentencing.”

Sentencing

- Prosecutor: “Your Honor, the People recommend a sentence of [sentence].”
- Defense Attorney: “Your Honor, we ask for leniency, as the defendant has shown remorse and has no prior convictions.”
- Judge: “The defendant is sentenced to [punishment] in accordance with [penal code Section].”

Appeals

- Defense Attorney: “Your Honor, we file a Notice of Appeal based on legal errors committed during the trial.”
- Appellate Court Judge: “The appeal is granted/denied. The case is remanded for a new trial/upheld.”

Information Regarding the Agenda Item

a) Introduction to the Agenda Item

On September 10, 2025, Charlie Kirk, an American right-wing political activist, was assassinated at Utah Valley University in Orem, Utah, while speaking at an outdoor campus debate planned by Turning Point USA, the conservative youth organization that he co-founded and led. Kirk, aged 31, a close ally of US president Donald Trump.

Shortly after the debate began, with around 3,000 people in attendance, Kirk was fatally shot in the neck with a single bullet by a gunman positioned on the roof of a building approximately 142 yards (130 m) away. Kirk was taken to a local hospital, where he was later pronounced dead. A manhunt for the shooter ended the following day when Tyler James Robinson, a 22-year-old from Washington, Utah, surrendered to the local sheriff. Prosecutors charged Robinson with aggravated murder on September 16 and announced they would seek the death penalty, alleging a politically motivated attack. He has yet to enter a plea.

The assassination was highlighted as an instance of increasing political violence within the United States and was condemned by national and foreign leaders. Public reactions ranged from heartfelt messages expressing anguish about the political climate to sharply partisan comments. Trump, members of the Republican Party, and other conservative figures blamed members of the Democratic Party and left-wing or liberal beliefs before a suspect was in custody or a motive was identified.

Kirk's assassination occurred during a period of deepening division and increasingly frequent violence in American politics. It followed a series of violent political incidents, including the June 2025 shootings of two Democratic Minnesota legislators and their spouses, the May 2025 killing of two Israeli embassy staffers in Washington, D.C. the April 2025 arson attack on Pennsylvania governor Josh Shapiro's residence, the December 2024 killing of UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson, and assassination attempts on Trump in July and September 2024. At a campaign event in Kentucky with Nate Morris in June 2025, Kirk himself spoke about the potential for violence. He told the crowd: "We're on the front lines where it's not always safe."

b) Evidence & Leads

Law enforcement recovered an older-make Mauser-type bolt-action hunting rifle, which was chambered in from a wooded area near the shooting, engraved cartridges, and "a footwear impression, a palm print, and forearm imprints for analysis". In a press conference on September 11, officials said that they had "good video footage" and were applying facial recognition technology to it. Later that day, the FBI indicated that facial recognition efforts had been unsuccessful, released photographs of a person of interest, and offered up to \$100,000 for information in the case. The FBI also investigated various social media accounts with posts that appeared to indicate foreknowledge of the assassination.

The investigators reported that cartridges found in the rifle were inscribed with various messages, which were rumored to be slogans relating to anti-fascist and "transgender ideology", but were described as a mix of Internet memes and popular culture after an FBI briefing on September 12 revealed the messages. The spent cartridge case was inscribed with "Notices Bulge OwO what's this?" (a reference to furry online roleplay.) Three unfired rounds were engraved with "hey fascist! CATCH! ↑→↓↓↓", the arrows referring to a sequence of inputs (code) used to summon a 500 kg bomb in the 2024 video game *Helldivers 2*, "O Bella ciao, Bella ciao, Bella ciao, Ciao, ciao!", a reference to the Italian anti-fascist song "Bella ciao" ("Goodbye, Beautiful"), and "If you read This, you are GAY Lmao". The song "Bella ciao" remains widely known as an anti-fascist anthem; however, it also resurfaced in popular media in the mid-2010s and early 2020s through the television series *Money Heist* and the video games *Hearts of Iron IV* and *Far Cry 6*. During the manhunt, law enforcement agencies reportedly received more than 7,000 leads related to the incident and conducted more than 200 interviews.

c) Accused

Tyler James Robinson (born April 16, 2003) is a 22-year-old American man accused of being the shooter.

The day after the shooting, his parents convinced him to come to their residence in Washington, Utah, after they recognized his likeness from news images that authorities alleged were of the shooter. As they discussed the situation, Robinson allegedly implied that he was the shooter. Robinson also told them he was fearful of

being shot by police or a SWAT team being sent to his parents' house. His parents contacted a member of their LDS congregation who was a retired detective and had previously worked for the Washington County sheriff.

The retired detective called the sheriff and made arrangements for Robinson to surrender. He and Robinson's father then drove Robinson to the sheriff's office the evening of September 11 and Robinson was taken into custody without incident. Governor Spencer Cox said the next day that Robinson was the only suspect.

The manhunt had lasted 33 hours. Local law enforcement officials have alleged that Robinson had acted irrationally, and that he might have considered committing suicide during the timeframe of the manhunt. If found guilty of Kirk's assassination, Robinson could face the death penalty.

d) Background of Charlie Kirk

Charles James “Charlie” Kirk (October 14, 1993 – September 10 2025) was an American conservative political activist, author, and media personality best known as the co-founder and longtime leader of Turning Point USA (TPUSA), a conservative youth advocacy organization.

In 2012, at the age 18, Kirk co-founded Turning Point USA, an organization aimed at mobilizing conservative students and countering what its leaders saw as liberal dominance on American campuses. Under his leadership, TPUSA expanded nationally with hundreds of college and high-school chapters and became influential in right-wing youth politics.

Kirk became a notable figure in American conservative politics, often speaking at Republican events and through platforms like social media, national conferences, and his podcast, *The Charlie Kirk Show*.

He was one of the youngest speakers at the 2016 Republican National Convention and cultivated close ties with former President Donald Trump.

e) Political Views & Controversies

Kirk promoted strongly conservative positions on issues such as abortion, immigration, diversity programs, and LGBTQ rights, aligning with Trumpism and

Christian conservative principles. His rhetoric drew both support and widespread criticism; critics accused him of spreading misinformation and engaging in racially and culturally divisive language.

Kirk would invite students to challenge him directly on these views, and his stances on issues such as immigration, transgender rights, abortion, diversity programmes and climate change often provoked the fiercest exchanges and loudest criticism.

"When you pierce the liberal echo chamber, minds are changed... millions of them in fact," he wrote in one X post. "The campus left is threatened by debate, dialogue, discussion, and differing ideas," he said in another.

On an episode of the online show "Surrounded", for example, Kirk was asked if he had a 10-year-old daughter who was raped and became pregnant whether he would want her to have the baby.

"The answer is yes, the baby would be delivered," Kirk said. Comments from Kirk on race and crime prompted an angry liberal backlash on numerous occasions. In 2020, he called George Floyd, a black man whose murder at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer sparked nationwide protests, a "scumbag".

When discussing crime on his podcast in 2023, he said "prowling blacks go around for fun to target white people". Referring to his opposition to affirmative action and hiring practices to boost diversity, he said on the same podcast a year later: "If I see a black pilot, I'm going to be like, boy, I hope he's qualified."

When a student accused him of racism in one recent campus debate, Kirk replied: "What have I ever said that's racist? What have I ever said that's hateful? He can't say anything I've ever said that's racist, because I've never said anything that's racist."

Kirk would often cite his Christian faith when explaining his positions on issues including Islam, gender and abortion.

"The West is the best because of Christianity. We must seek Christ first, and our national and cultural resurgence will naturally follow. For America to be great, we must remain majority Christian," he said.

He was also accused of antisemitism in 2023, when he said on his podcast that "Jewish communities have been pushing the exact kind of hatred against whites that they claim to want people to stop using against them". He added: "It is true that some of the largest financiers of left-wing, anti-white causes have been Jewish Americans."

Questions to Ponder

- What is the role of my allocation in the committee?
- What are the stances of defendants and prosecution on the topic?
- What are some unanswered questions in the case?
- What are the impacts of figures such as J.D. Vance or Erika Kirk for the case?
- How did social media impact the case?

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