

**IN THE APPELLATE COURT OF ILLINOIS
SECOND DISTRICT**

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,
Plaintiff-Appellee,

v.

EHAB ALLABABIDI,
Defendant-Appellant, Pro Se.

APPELLATE COURT OF ILLINOIS
SECOND DISTRICT

Appeal No. **2-26-0352**

Appeal from the Circuit Court of
Lake County, No. **23 CF 1146**

The Honorable Christopher R. Stride,
Judge Presiding

**SUPPLEMENT AND DECLARATION REPORTING THE PROCEEDING OF
AUGUST 6, 2026, AND RENEWED REQUEST FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A
SPECIAL PROSECUTOR**

Ill. S. Ct. R. 361 and 366(a)(5) — with the declaration of the appellant under 735 ILCS 5/1-109

Relief requested

Appellant asks this Court to:

1. Make this supplement, the accompanying declaration, and the Fifth Supplemental Supporting Record part of the record of this appeal;
2. Direct the People to state in writing whether Assistant State’s Attorney Ben Dillon participated in the decision to charge this cause in 2022, in the preparation of the April 8, 2026 violation request, and in the preparation of the response to the post-conviction petition, and whether he has read the amended complaint in No. 1:26-cv-06738;
3. Direct that any notice hereafter issued in No. 23 CF 1146 for a proceeding a case participant is permitted to attend remotely carry on its face the information necessary to attend remotely, as Ill. S. Ct. R. 45(b)(4) requires; and
4. Refer the question of the appointment of a special prosecutor under 55 ILCS 5/3-9008(a-10), or grant such other relief under Rule 366(a)(5) as the case requires.

Non-duplication

Nothing here re-argues any matter this Court denied on July 31, 2026, and no relief denied that day is sought again. The authorities, the record citations and the argument already filed in this appeal are relied on as filed and are not restated. What is new is the proceeding of August 6, 2026 and the three exhibits that record it — Exhibits UU, VV and WW — none of which existed when this Court last ruled. Exhibits RR, SS and TT are filed because Exhibits UU and VV cannot be read without them. The appellant files this because the date reported is the date this Court’s own order identified.

I. The proceeding of August 6, 2026

This Court’s order of July 31, 2026 advised appointed counsel of appellant’s suggestion that his jail term would begin August 6, 2026. This supplement reports that date.

The proceeding was set by a Notice of Court Date issued July 23, 2026 at 11:59 a.m. reading “On court’s own motion, you are hereby required to appear.” (Ex. SS.) Appellant joined the remote call and was held in the waiting room from **9:03 a.m. to approximately 9:57 a.m.** Fourteen captures record the hold; the first reads “Waiting for the host to start the meeting,” and the thirteen from 9:11:47 a.m. through 9:47:33 a.m. each read **“Host has joined. We’ve let them know you’re here.”** (Ex. UU.) At 9:53 a.m. appellant placed two calls to (847) 377-3814 in Waukegan. (Ex. VV.)

After admission appellant waited further while the court disposed of other matters. When the cause was reached the court read from this Court’s July 31, 2026 order and stated in substance that it lacked jurisdiction and could not hear anything in regard to the case. The proceeding took **under four minutes**. Appellant stated on the record that the notice compelling his appearance reads “On court’s own motion.” The court responded in substance that it had not set the matter. No warrant was executed, no revocation hearing was held, and no ruling was entered on the pending motion for substitution of judge for cause.

II. Who appeared for the People

The cause was called for the People by **Assistant State’s Attorney Ben Dillon**. Assistant State’s Attorney Nicholas Shepherd, who swore the May 14, 2026 petition and who is a defendant in No. 1:26-cv-06738 for having sworn it, did not appear.

The State’s own production establishes the following, and Exhibit WW reproduces it:

May 26, 2022	Detective Petrick’s report: he “contacted Assistant State’s Attorney (ASA), Ben Dillon.”
Aug. 11, 2022	Petrick to Dillon, on the laboratory result: it “does not offer an specific amount; just Amphetamine and Benzodiazepines. I believe it would be hard pressed to prove DUI drugs.”
Dec. 5, 2025	DeRosa circulates “Ehab Allababidi Update,” copying Dillon.
Jan. 20, 2026	Shepherd to Dillon: “Here is the draft response to the defendant’s combine motion and post conviction petition. Could you take a look and give me your thoughts.”
Apr. 8, 2026	Probation’s violation request is addressed to “Benjamin Dillon; Nicholas Shepherd.” Its second ground is amphetamine use. The memorandum is at Ex. U, SR-000082–83, “ATTENTION: Ben Dillon, COURT RM: T-611.”
Jun. 18, 2026	Shepherd forwards ARDC No. 20261N03190 to Dillon.

55 ILCS 5/3-9008(a-10) requires specific facts showing the State’s Attorney cannot zealously represent the People. The assistant told in 2022 that the amphetamine finding carried no quantities is the assistant who received the violation request resting on amphetamine use, who was asked to review the response to the post-conviction petition, who was copied on the disciplinary complaints, and who appeared on August 6, 2026.

III. The notice, and Rule 45(b)(4)

Ill. S. Ct. R. 45(b)(4): “**All summonses and notices** for court proceedings that case participants are permitted to attend remotely **shall include information necessary for a case participant to appear in person or remotely, including any information necessary for case participants to access the applicable technology platform** to appear remotely.” (Ex. RR.)

At 8:58 a.m. on August 6, 2026 the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit published on its own website, for “August 6, 2026 / Judge: Christopher Stride / Session Time: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm,” a meeting identifier, a passcode, the dial-in number 312-626-6799, and a “Join Now” link. (Ex. VV.) The Notice of Court Date served on appellant states a courtroom number, a street address, and the Clerk’s telephone number. (Ex. SS.)

A case type is exempt from the option to attend remotely without advance approval only where “the **Chief Judge shall by local rule** exempt the case type or proceeding type.” Ill. S. Ct. R. 45(b)(2), (b)(7). No such local rule has been identified.

IV. The orders of June 17, 2026

The court made statements distancing itself from the custodial orders entered, including words to the effect that it had not lifted the jail sentence. The written order of June 17, 2026, file-stamped June 18, 2026 at 10:48 a.m. and bearing the court’s signature, states: “**The stay of the 180 day Lake County Jail term of the defendant’s sentence is hereby lifted.**” The minute entry of June 17, 2026 records “**WARRANT WILL NOT BE QUASHED**” and “**Oral Motion TO LIFT STAY ON JAIL SENTENCE Granted.**” A zero-bond warrant and a 180-day term continue to operate on the authority of those instruments.

Compliance

Local Rule 109	The appeal is docketed. Relief sought below and the reason none further was sought is stated in Part I. The relevant documents are attached as a Rule 328 record.
Rule 361(b)(2)	A proposed order in alternative form accompanies this supplement.
Rule 328	Fifth Supplemental Supporting Record, Exhibits RR through WW, filed herewith.

Declaration of Ehab Allababidi

I, Ehab Allababidi, declare under penalties as provided by law pursuant to section 1-109 of the Code of Civil Procedure (735 ILCS 5/1-109) that the following is true and correct, on my own personal knowledge:

1. I am the defendant-appellant and I am self-represented. I make this declaration on personal knowledge and could testify to it.

2. A proceeding was set for 9:00 a.m. on August 6, 2026 in Courtroom T-611 before Judge Christopher R. Stride. The Notice of Court Date that set it issued July 23, 2026 at 11:59 a.m. and reads “On court’s own motion, you are hereby required to appear.” It gives a courtroom, a street address, and the Clerk’s telephone number. It gives no meeting identifier, passcode, dial-in number, link, or platform, and does not say whether the proceeding could be attended remotely.

3. At 8:58 a.m. on August 6, 2026 I viewed and captured the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit’s published Zoom schedule at 19thcircuitcourt.state.il.us. Its entry for that morning reads “August 6, 2026 / Judge: Christopher Stride / Session Time: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm,” followed by a meeting identifier, a passcode, a dial-in number, and a “Join Now” link.

4. I joined and was placed in a waiting room headed “JUDGE CHRISTOPHER STRIDE (SALA DE ESPERA)” under the banner of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit Court, reading “Thursday - T611. Scheduled: 9:00 AM Thu, August 6.” My camera was on and I was dressed for court.

5. I captured my screen fourteen times. The capture timed 9:03:04 a.m. reads “Waiting for the host to start the meeting.” The thirteen from 9:11:47 a.m. through 9:47:33 a.m. each read “Host has joined. We’ve let them know you’re here.”

6. At 9:53 a.m., still waiting, I placed two calls to (847) 377-3814 in Waukegan. My call record shows both at that minute and the first as lasting 37 seconds. I was admitted at approximately 9:57 a.m.

7. I then waited while the court called and disposed of other matters. My case was not called during that time.

8. When my case was called it was called by Assistant State’s Attorney Ben Dillon. Assistant State’s Attorney Nicholas Shepherd did not appear at any point. From the call to the conclusion, less than four minutes elapsed.

9. The court read aloud from this Court’s order of July 31, 2026, including its jurisdictional portion, and stated in substance that because a notice of appeal had been filed it lacked jurisdiction and could not hear anything in regard to this case.

10. I stated on the record that the notice compelling my appearance reads “On court’s own motion,” and that the court had therefore set the proceeding itself. The court did not answer it. It responded in substance that it had not set the matter, and moved on.

11. The court also made statements distancing itself from the custodial orders already entered, including words to the effect that it had not lifted the jail sentence.

12. The court’s written order of June 17, 2026, file-stamped June 18, 2026 at 10:48 a.m. and bearing its signature, states: “The stay of the 180 day Lake County Jail term of the defendant’s sentence is hereby lifted.” Its minute entry of June 17, 2026 records “WARRANT WILL NOT BE QUASHED” and “Oral Motion TO LIFT STAY ON JAIL SENTENCE Granted.”

13. More than once during the proceeding I saw the court’s microphone indicator change to muted. While it was muted I could see the judge speaking, turned toward ASA Dillon, and I heard no audio. The indicator then returned to unmuted. Each interval was brief.

14. The court took no substantive action. No warrant was executed, no revocation hearing was held, and no ruling was entered on my pending motion for substitution of judge for cause.

15. I have never waived my right to appear in person at any proceeding for which Ill. S. Ct. R. 45(d)(2) requires a waiver.

Where I recite what the court said I have written “in substance,” because I recite it from memory and not from a transcript. As to the microphone, I state only what was visible and audible to me. I do not state what was said, whether anyone else heard it, or what any person knew or intended.

/s/ Ehab Allababidi

EHAB ALLABABIDI

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Executed and dated: August 6, 2026