

Woman appeals life sentence for Brentwood Pointe slaying

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Brentwood Police work the crime scene at Brentwood Pointe in 2010.

A Pennsylvania woman charged with criminal homicide in the 2010 shooting death of her boyfriend at the Brentwood Pointe condominiums on Thursday appealed her life sentence.

Tanya Nicole Slimick, 37, argues she acted in self-defense on the morning of Sept. 21, 2010 when she shot Bryan Bell, then 32, four times.

"The facts adduced by the State supported a verdict of manslaughter at most," defense attorney David Raybin of Nashville wrote in Slimick's appeal for post-conviction relief.



"The State having failed to prove the required elements of murder in the first degree or negate self-defense, in that the passion of the moment dispelled the required premeditation which the State was required to prove beyond a reasonable doubt."

Court facts show Slimick and Bell were in a tumultuous, long-term relationship that began when the two were living in Pennsylvania. After Bell moved to Tennessee, Slimick frequently visited him at his home in Franklin.

Slimick called police at 3:43 a.m. on Sept. 21, 2010, and told the 911 dispatcher she had shot Bell after he threatened to kill her. A jury in January 2014 found Slimick guilty of first-degree murder, and she was sentenced to life in prison.

Slimick's first parole eligibility date is May 29, 2073, when she would be age 96. She is housed in the Mark Luttrell Correctional Center in Memphis.

"At trial the State argued that Ms. Slimick intentionally killed Mr. Bell because of his infidelity," the appeal said.

"The trial thus presented either the classic, allegedly spurned girlfriend who kills her boyfriend in the heat of passion or an emotionally abused woman fighting for her life.

"In both situations, the facts supported self-defense or, at worst, that the shooting was one of extreme provocation suggesting perhaps manslaughter but certainly not murder."

Evidence provided at the trial showed Bell had on multiple occasions threatened to kill Slimick, her family and even her dog, Raybin said. Police found bruises on Slimick's body after she was taken to the police station for questioning.

Since the verdict, Raybin has filed numerous appeals and motions for a new trial, all of which have been denied.

A Williamson County Circuit Court clerk said Tuesday that it could take a couple years before this most recent appeal is addressed.

District Attorney Kim Helper did not respond to Brentwood Home Page requests for comment in time of publication of this article.

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