

2010-2011 Missouri Mock Trial The State of Missouri vs. Brock Gabriel Suzik

If only she'd left her home 30 seconds earlier, or later...If only she'd taken another route...

At approximately 11:40 p.m. on the night of October 9, 2010, Rene Bennett, a 34-year-old private practice attorney who is 36 weeks pregnant, is on her way to the emergency room at Wrightville Hospital fearful that her unborn child is in danger. While driving east on Pine Tree Parkway, Mrs. Bennett loses control of her car and plunges down the embankment near Highway 131. Her car comes to a stop after hitting an overpass support, at which time her airbag deploys. By the time emergency response crews arrive at the scene, more than an hour has passed and Ms. Bennett is unconscious and in critical condition. She is rushed to the emergency room at Wrightville Hospital just two miles away where she is immediately treated for her injuries. Despite the heroic efforts of the rescue crew and hospital emergency medical team, Mrs. Bennett's baby is delivered stillborn and Mrs. Bennett herself is left paralyzed and unable to speak. She is thought to be suffering from what is known as "locked in" syndrome, a condition in which the patient has normal functioning brain activity, but cannot speak.

At approximately 11:35 p.m. on the night of October 10, 2010, 18-year-old Brock Suzik and his high school classmates Jamie Ashman and Mickey Good enter his car after leaving a party at Club Glee, a Wrightville dance club popular with area teens. Brock gets behind the wheel and heads west on Pine Tree Parkway to begin his quest to find the next party spot.

These facts are uncontested. What happened next is a matter of dispute.

Was this a one-car accident in which Rene Bennett lost control? Did Brock Suzik cross the centerline and sideswipe Rene Bennett causing her car to careen off the road? Was a third, as yet unidentified car involved?

After a time-consuming investigation, Detective Lee Morgan forwards his investigation on to the county prosecutor. Brock is subsequently charged with leaving the scene of an accident—a class D felony—and 2nd degree murder for the death of Baby Doe Bennett. Charges for the injuries to Rene Bennett are being held back pending medical developments.

Defendant:

- Brock Gabriel Suzik; 18 years old, senior in high school

Witnesses for the Prosecution:

- Sid / Sydney Saccharin – Medical Doctor
- Jamie Ashman – 18 years old, senior in high school, passenger in Brock Suzik's car
- Lee Morgan – police detective investigating the case

Witnesses for the Defense:

- Lyle / Lilly Sanders – PhD psychology
- Eric / Erica Langsdorf – accident reconstructionist
- Mickey Good – 19 years old, senior in high school, passenger in Brock Suzik's car