

**SAMPLE ACCEPTABLE  
APPELLANT'S OPENING BRIEF  
CRIMINAL CASE**

(updated August 2015)

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[Note: The brief must be white bond (20-pound weight)]

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF THE STATE OF OREGON

STATE OF OREGON,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff-Respondent,	)	Circuit Court Case
	)	No. CM99-20449
v.	)	
	)	CA A000000
JONATHAN DOE,	)	
	)	
Defendant-Appellant.	)	

APPELLANT'S OPENING BRIEF AND EXCERPT OF RECORD

Appeal from the Judgment of the Circuit Court  
for Eden County  
Honorable Eve Jurist, Judge

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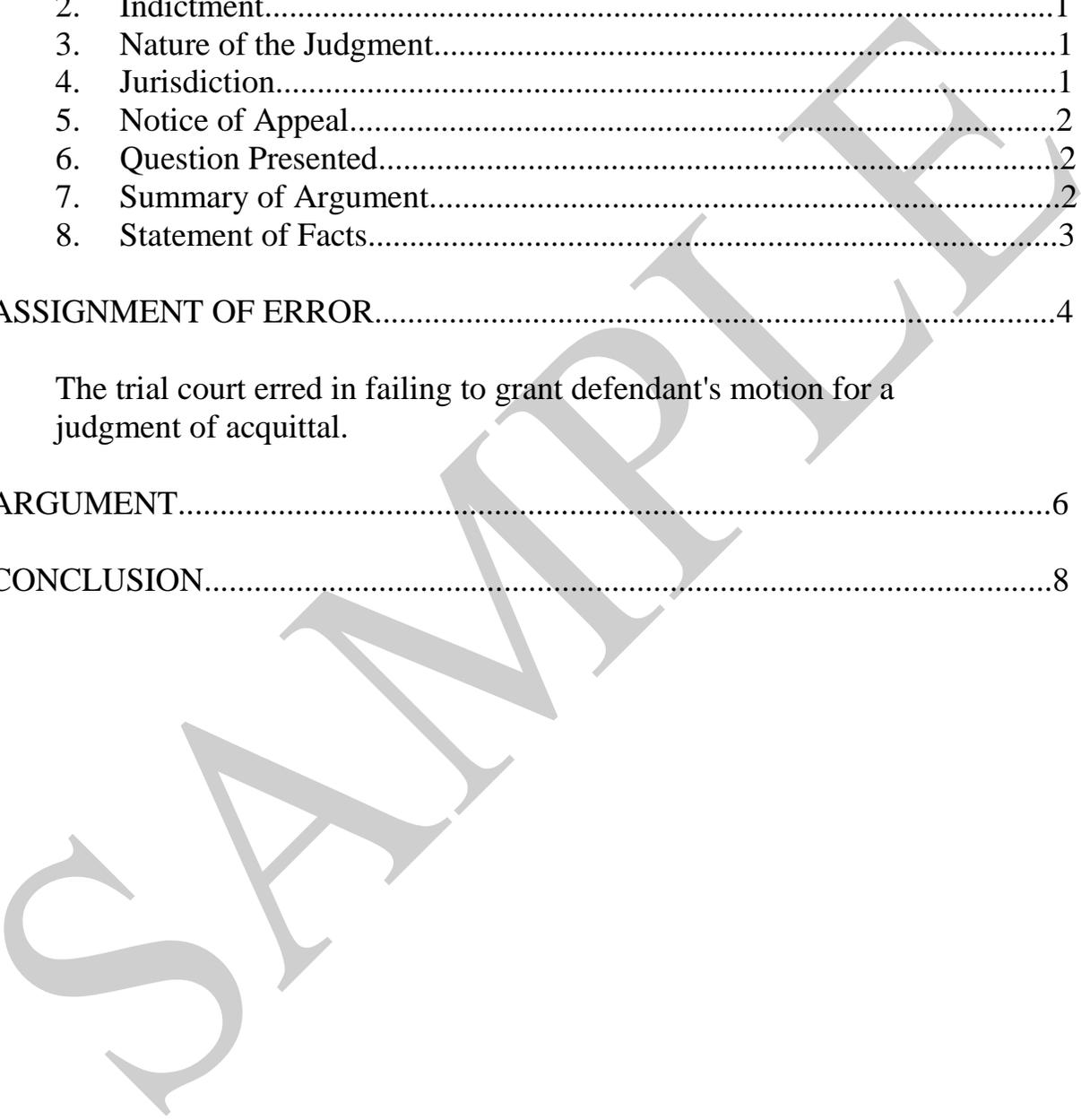
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## APPELLANT'S BRIEF

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### STATEMENT OF THE CASE

#### Nature of the Proceeding

This is a criminal case in which defendant seeks reversal of his conviction for burglary in the first degree in Eden County Circuit Court Case No. CM99-20449.

#### Indictment

Defendant was charged by a two-count indictment with violation *inter alia* of ORS 164.225, as follows:

"The defendant is accused by the Grand Jury for Eden County of the following offenses:

"Count 1: BURGLARY IN THE FIRST DEGREE (FSG=7; A Felony; ORS 164.225)

"\* \* \* \* \*

"Count 1

"The defendant, on or about 04/04/1999 to 04/05/1999, in the County of Eden and State of Oregon, did unlawfully and knowingly enter and remain in a dwelling located at [address], with the intent to commit the crime of theft of services and criminal mischief in the third degree therein."

## **Nature of the Judgment**

Defendant pled "not guilty" to the charges and was found guilty of count 1 (burglary in the first degree) following a court trial. Defendant was acquitted of count 2 (criminal mischief in the second degree). Defendant was placed into grid block 7E (presumptive prison 16-18 months). The trial court found, under ORS 137.717, that defendant had four previous convictions of crimes listed in ORS 137.717(2), and defendant was sentenced pursuant to ORS 137.717(1)(a) to serve 19 months in prison. Judgment was filed July 22, 1999 and was entered of record August 18, 1999. A copy of the judgment appealed from is attached as Excerpt of Record ER 1-3.

## **Jurisdiction**

This court has jurisdiction pursuant to ORS 138.040.

## **Notice of Appeal**

The Notice of Appeal was timely filed on September 10, 1999.

## **Question Presented**

Has the state failed to prove that the property entered was, at the time of the incident, a "dwelling" under the meaning of ORS 164.205(2)?

## **Summary of Argument**

The state has failed to prove in count 1 that the property that defendant entered was a "dwelling" under ORS 164.205(2).

## Statement of Facts

By this appeal, defendant challenges whether the building alleged to have been entered is, as a matter of law, a "dwelling." The facts relevant to that issue are summarized as follows:

The indictment alleges a burglary at [address], which occurred on or about April 4 or 5, 1999.

Late in the evening on April 4, 1999, [witness 1 name] heard what sounded like a television coming from next door, which was an unoccupied and unused duplex. No one was supposed to be in that duplex. Police were called. Defendant came out of the back of the duplex. On examination of the duplex, items were found within the duplex that were not supposed to have been in the duplex. (Tr 17-20.) There was a backpack and a little TV and garbage, as though someone had been living there. (Tr 22-23, 49-52.)

The duplex was owned by [witness 2 name]. (Tr 34.) When [witness 2 name] heard the noise coming from the duplex, he thought it was a ghost. No one had lived in the duplex for a long time, and the doors were locked. (Tr 34-35.) Heat and lights and the water heater were turned off in the duplex. The electric company had turned off the electrical power to the duplex because the previous tenant had not paid the electricity bill. [witness 2 name]'s wife, [witness 3 name], had recently called the electric company to restore electricity so that they could

show the duplex to potential renters. (Tr 35-36.) On week prior to this incident, [witness 2 name] had entered the duplex to show the duplex to prospective tenants. Everything was locked and shut off at that time. (Tr 44.)

Defendant had no permission to enter the duplex. (Tr 36.) The duplex had been entered by use of a screwdriver to force a window. (Tr 55.)

### **ASSIGNMENT OF ERROR**

#### **Preservation of Error**

The trial court erred in failing to grant defendant's motion for judgment of acquittal.

Defendant moved the court for a judgment of acquittal as follows:

"[DEFENSE COUNSEL]: [W]e'd like to first start with the Burglary in the First Degree, and we're moving for a motion of a judgment of acquittal.

"I don't think that this has been established as a dwelling. The most that we have established is that it was rented back in September. We don't know the reasons for the renting of the Apartment, it has never been established. And even on top of that, they've indicated that they were there only for two days, or something to that effect. It wasn't a very long period of time if it was the same renters. I don't know if it was. So we're moving for a judgment of acquittal based upon the fact that there has not been any evidence that this is a dwelling." (Tr 65-66.)

The motion was denied as follows:

"THE COURT: I'll overrule the motion." (Tr 67.)

## Standard of Review

*State v. King*, 307 Or 332, 768 P2d 391 (1974), describes the standard an appellate court uses when reviewing the sufficiency of evidence for conviction.

The Oregon Supreme Court stated:

"[T]he question is whether, after viewing the evidence in the light most favorable to the state, any rational trier of fact could have found the essential elements of the crime beyond a reasonable doubt. *State v. Harris*, 288 Or 703, 721, 609 P2d 798 (1980). It is not proper for us to hold that there is a reasonable doubt because of conflicts in the evidence. After a verdict of guilty, such conflicts must be treated as if they had been decided in the state's favor. After the conflicts have been so decided, we must take such decided facts together with those facts about which there is no conflict and determine whether the inferences that may be drawn from them are sufficient to allow the jury to find defendant's guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. Our decision is not whether we believe defendant is guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, but whether the evidence is sufficient for a jury to so find. *State v. Krummacher*, 269 Or 127, 137-38, 523 P2d 1009 (1974)."

307 Or at 339.

Inferences that are drawn must follow more likely than not from the facts giving rise to the inference. When an inference is the sole basis for finding the existence of an element of the crime, the inference must follow beyond a reasonable doubt from the underlying facts. *State v. Rainey*, 298 Or 459, 466, 692 P2d 635 (1985).

The standard of review required by the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution is similar: "[T]he

relevant question is whether after viewing the evidence in the light most favorable to the prosecution, any rational trier of fact could have found the essential elements of the crime beyond a reasonable doubt." *Jackson v. Virginia*, 443 US 307, 319, 99 S Ct 2781, 61 L Ed 2d 560 (1979).

### ARGUMENT

Defendant was charged with violation of ORS 164.225, burglary in the first degree. ORS 164.225 provides, in relevant part:

**"164.225 Burglary in the first degree.** (1) A person commits the crime of burglary in the first degree if the person violates ORS 164.215 [burglary in the second degree] and the building is a dwelling[.]"

"Dwelling" for purposes of ORS 164.225 is defined at ORS 164.205(2):

"'Dwelling' means a building which regularly or intermittently is occupied by a person lodging therein at night, whether or not a person is actually present."

The issue, then, in this case is whether on April 4 and 5, 1999 the duplex at [address] was a "dwelling" under ORS 164.205(2). The meaning of "dwelling" has previously been litigated in several cases before this court.

In *State v. Eaton*, 43 Or App 469, 602 P2d 1159 (1979), this court considered a two-story summer camp building that was used eight weeks of the year as a dwelling for Jesuit candidates for the priesthood; the other 44 weeks of the year, the building stood vacant. Because burglary occurred at a time when the building was not used as a dwelling, the building was not a "dwelling."

In *State v. McDonald*, 77 Or App 267, 273, 712 P2d 163 (1986) (quoting Criminal Law Revision Commission, Proposed Oregon Criminal Code 143, § 135, Commentary (1970)), this court stated:

"The reason that invading a 'dwelling' is made a more serious crime is to '[protect] against invasion of premises likely to terrorize occupants.'"

In this case, the duplex was vacant and could not be used as a dwelling, because no one had authority to live there at the time it was entered. The duplex's owner testified that, at the time of the burglary, the unit was locked and utilities, electricity and hot water were turned off. Although the duplex had once been a dwelling and might once again become a dwelling, it was not at the time of the burglary a dwelling. At the time of the burglary, the property was not equipped to be used nor was it being used as a dwelling.

This court should reconsider its ruling in *State v. Ramey*, 89 Or App 535, 749 P2d 1219 (1988). In *Ramey*, this court considered the meaning of "dwelling" in relation to a one-room apartment that was vacant for remodeling at the time defendant broke into it. The apartment was vacant while it was being remodeled. A new tenant was to move in after the remodel was completed. This court held:

"Contrary to defendant's contention, ORS 164.205(2) does not require that at the time of the entry there must be an identifiable person using or authorized to use the building as sleeping quarters, either regularly or intermittently[.] Under the circumstances, defendant's entry was likely to terrorize the occupant. The court erred when it dismissed the charge of criminal trespass in the first degree."

89 Or App at 539.

The holding of *Ramey* is not consistent with the plain language of ORS 164.205(2), which states that a dwelling is a building that "regularly or intermittently is occupied" as lodging. The holding of *Ramey* is also inconsistent with the purpose of the burglary in the first degree statute that affords special protection to a dwelling where an occupant may be terrorized. In the case at bar, the duplex was not and could not have been occupied at the time of its entry. This is not the sort of building intended for the protection of the burglary in the first degree statute of the Oregon Criminal Code.

#### CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated above, defendant's conviction should be reversed.

Respectfully Submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_**SIGN HERE**\_\_\_\_\_

David Lawyer #000000  
Attorney for Jonathan Doe  
Defendant-Appellant

**EXCERPT OF RECORD**

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Judgment (Trial Court File page 66).....ER 1-2

**(The Judgment is the only required doc to be included in the ER, other docs are at your discretion).**

SAMPLE

SAMPLE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON  
FOR COUNTY

FILED ER-2111  
OREGON JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

2015 JAN 16 PM 3:29

STATE OF OREGON,  
vs. Plaintiff,

JUDGMENT  REFERRAL  AMENDED

SGL GRID SCORE \_\_\_\_\_ Control # \_\_\_\_\_

Case No \_\_\_\_\_

Interpreter: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Proceeding: 1-15-15  (FTR Recording)

AKA: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Defense Attorney \_\_\_\_\_ D.A. \_\_\_\_\_

Retained  Appointed-Court determined Defendant to be indigent  Knowingly Waived Attorney  In Custody  Out of Custody

ARRAIGNED with RIGHTS GIVEN  Defendant waived 48-hours before sentencing  
IT IS ADJUDGED THAT DEFENDANT HAS BEEN CONVICTED BY:  G Plea  NC Plea  Jury Trial  Court Trial  Other: skip facts

OF THE FOLLOWING OFFENSE(S): Ct 1 - DUII

JUDGMENT OF DISMISSAL - COUNT(S): Ct 2

Pursuant to statute, this conviction is declared a MISDEMEANOR and sentence is imposed accordingly.

SENTENCE: Unless otherwise indicated, all marked elements of the sentence apply to all listed convicted offense(s).

Suspend Imposition of Sentence PROBATION: \_\_\_\_\_ Yrs / Mos  Bench Probation  Formal Probation  
(misdemeanors)  2 Yrs DUII Enhanced Bench Probation  Pay Formal Prob Service Fee unless  Waived  
 Pay DUII Supervision Fee and comply with all terms of probation

CONDITIONS OF PROBATION:

- OBEY ALL LAWS.
- NOTIFY THE COURT IN WRITING OF ANY CHANGE OF ADDRESS WITHIN TEN (10) DAYS OF MOVE.
- OBEY ALL GENERAL CONDITIONS OF PROBATION (Pursuant to ORS 137.540).
- PAY ALL COURT-ORDERED RESTITUTION AND ANY OTHER COURT-ORDERED FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS (See Money Award).
- FOR FORMAL PROBATION OR IF COMMUNITY SERVICE IS ORDERED, REPORT IMMEDIATELY TO COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS.
- FOR DUII ENHANCED BENCH PROBATION, REPORT IMMEDIATELY TO EVALUATION SERVICES.
- FOR FELONIES YOU SHALL SUBMIT A BLOOD OR BUCCAL DNA SAMPLE, PER PROBATION DEPT. OR COURT DIRECTION.

COMMUNITY SERVICE: \_\_\_\_\_ hours to be completed by \_\_\_\_\_ Pay Community Service Fee unless  Waived  
 Theft Counseling by: \_\_\_\_\_  DUII VICTIMS' PANEL on: 2-26-15 (see back side for more info.)  
 Structured Intermediate Sanctions shall not be allowed.

AS DIRECTED BY YOUR PROBATION OFFICER/COURT/EVALUATOR: Evaluation / Treatment / Counseling for:  
 Alcohol /  Drugs /  Anger /  Mental Health /  Sex Offender /  Batterer Specific /  Domestic Violence /  Parenting Classes /  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

- Take all medications as prescribed.
- Sex Offender Conditions  Domestic Violence Conditions (attached)
- No direct or indirect contact (without prior written permission from PO) with: \_\_\_\_\_
- Do not own, possess or control any firearm/other weapon: \_\_\_\_\_  Forfeit / Destroy weapon, to wit: \_\_\_\_\_
- No driving unless properly licensed and insured.
- Do not consume or possess alcohol.  Do not enter bars, taverns or liquor stores  Except for work purposes.
- Submit to Field Sobriety Tests, if requested.  Submit to Intoxilizer Tests, if requested.  Antabuse per P.O., if medically able.
- Submit to random body substance testing. Pursuant to ORS 137.540(1).
- Submit to Polygraph testing to determine compliance with treatment/conditions of probation.
- Submit to search of person, residence, vehicle & property by Probation Officer. Pursuant to ORS 137.540(1).
- Do not consume or possess controlled substances or prescribed medications without prior knowledge of your Probation Officer and medical professional.
- Accept no prescriptions without revealing substance abuse history to prescribing medical professional.

OTHER: Ct 1 - ODL - suspension - 3yrs

Handwritten initials/signature

Case No. \_\_\_\_\_

CONVICTION COMMITMENT (misd or SB 1145) to Washington Cty Supervisory Authority;  Sheriff;  Sheriff and WCCCP

Suspend execution of Sentence

COMMITMENT AS CONDITION OF PROBATION to Washington Cty Supervisory Authority;  Sheriff;  Sheriff and WCCCP

REPORT TO:  Washington County Jail;  WCCCP (Washington County Community Corrections Center) BEGIN: \_\_\_\_\_

On: Ct 1 for 6 months w/ccts consecutive/concurrent to \_\_\_\_\_  PPS for \_\_\_\_\_ yrs

Ct \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ consecutive/concurrent to \_\_\_\_\_  PPS for \_\_\_\_\_ yrs

Ct \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ consecutive/concurrent to \_\_\_\_\_  PPS for \_\_\_\_\_ yrs

WILOJ Orientation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

WILOJ days to work: \_\_\_\_\_

CONVICTION COMMITMENT - ORDER TO HOLD (felony, non-1145) Defendant is committed to Oregon Department of Corrections:

On: Ct \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ consecutive/concurrent to \_\_\_\_\_  PPS for \_\_\_\_\_ yrs

Ct \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ consecutive/concurrent to \_\_\_\_\_  PPS for \_\_\_\_\_ yrs

Ct \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ consecutive/concurrent to \_\_\_\_\_  PPS for \_\_\_\_\_ yrs

ORS 137.635 Applies (Denny Smith)  ORS 161.610 Applies (Firearm Minimum)

RELEASE on Count(s) / Case(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**SENTENCING REQUIREMENTS re: ELIGIBILITY FOR CERTAIN TYPES OF LEAVE, RELEASE OR PROGRAMS**

(applies to both Dept of Corrections and County Jail sentences)

The parties stipulate,  The court finds the releasing authority may release the defendant on post-prison supervision under ORS 421.508(4) following successful completion of an alternative incarceration program.

Defendant may be considered for all alternative sanctions, (ORS 137.750) (421.508(4)). including EHD

NO alternative sanctions until successful completion of treatment dorm.

Remainder of sentence commuted after successful completion of treatment dorm.

Based upon factors stated in open court on the record, there are substantial and compelling reasons to order that the defendant not be considered for leave from custody, reduction in sentence, work release, alternative incarceration programs, alternative sanctions or programs of conditional or supervised release except for the following:

- Good behavior credit (ORS 169.110)
- Work credit (ORS 169.120)
- In patient treatment w/day for day credit upon successful completion
- Passes, leave, release, furlough
- Electronic home detention (EHD)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**CREDIT FOR TIME SERVED (Probation sentences only)**

- Credit for all time served prior to sentence of this judgment
- Credit for only *actual* time served prior to sentence of this judgment
- No credit for any time served prior to sentence of this judgment
- Partial credit for any time served prior to sentence of this judgment:

Award Creditor: STATE OF OREGON

**MONEY AWARD**

Award Debtor: DEFENDANT

(All monies, including previously ordered amounts, are due in full 60 days prior to the expiration of probation unless otherwise ordered. Distribution per statute. The laws allow fees to recover administrative and collection costs to be automatically added and collected without further notice to you or action by the court, when the court has to establish a payment account, refer a matter for collection, or send DMV a suspension notice.)

RESTITUTION \*\$ \_\_\_\_\_  Joint & Several with Co-Defendants  Amt. to be determined  Def waives AP @ Restitution Hearing

BEAS \$ 100 (\*As specified on Distribution List) ATTY FEES \$ 416- DUII CVT. FEE \$ 255 WITNESS FEES \$ \_\_\_\_\_

COMP. FINE\* \$ \_\_\_\_\_ UNAS\* \$ \_\_\_\_\_ DVAS\* \$ \_\_\_\_\_ FINE \$ 2000- (Minimum fine plus additional fine)

OTHER \$ \_\_\_\_\_  MONEY TO DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE  Security Deposit REFUNDED / APPLIED to monies in Judgment.

Fines and Fees Due by: \_\_\_\_\_ Minimum Monthly Payments \$ 50- Begin: 4-15-15  Payments per P.O.

DATE: 1-15-15

JUDGE: \_\_\_\_\_  
Stamped Name: Kohn

\*\*\* REFER TO BACK FOR IMPORTANT ADDRESSES AND INFORMATION \*\*\*

**CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE  
WITH BRIEF LENGTH AND TYPE SIZE REQUIREMENTS**

Brief length

I certify that (1) this brief complies with the word-count limitation in ORAP 5.05(2)(b) and (2) the word count of this brief (as described in ORAP 5.05(2)(a)) is 1,769 words.

Type size

I certify that the size of the type in this brief is not smaller than 14 point for both the text of the brief and footnotes as required by ORAP 5.05(2)(d)(ii) and 5.05(4)(g).

    **SIGN HERE**    

David Lawyer #000000  
Attorney for Jonathan Doe  
Defendant-Appellant

## PROOF OF SERVICE

I certify that on the 3rd day of April, 2000 the original foregoing Petitioner's Brief was deposited in the United States Post Office at Anycity, Oregon, with first class postage prepaid thereon addressed to:

Appellate Court Administrator  
Appellate Courts Records Section Records Section  
1163 State Street  
Salem OR 97301-2563

I further certify that on the 3rd day of April, 2000 two (2) copies of the foregoing Petitioner's Brief were deposited in the United States Post Office at Anycity, Oregon, with first class postage prepaid thereon addressed to:

John Barrister  
Attorney General  
[address]

**SIGN HERE**

David Lawyer, OSB No. 000000  
Of Attorneys for Petitioner