

Butler v. State

During voir dire, the judge dismissed a juror over the defense's objection. The juror had expressed anxiety about the potential length of the trial and its possible economic impact on her personally. She stated that she was concerned that her decisions might be affected by a desire to end the deliberations quickly in order to return to work. The judge excused the juror, stating in the record that he did not wish the jury's deliberations to be affected by concerns extrinsic to the issues of the case. Following conviction, the defendant argued on appeal that the juror was improperly struck by the court's own motion. In upholding the trial judge's action, the court decided that the judge's comments in the record indicated that the juror was not struck for cause but excused under the judge's discretionary authority.