

**Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal  
State of Louisiana**

---

No. 26-K-257

---

STATE OF LOUISIANA

*versus*

RITA BAKER

---

IN RE RITA BAKER

APPLYING FOR SUPERVISORY WRIT FROM THE FORTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, PARISH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, STATE OF LOUISIANA, DIRECTED TO THE HONORABLE NGHANA LEWIS, DIVISION "B", NUMBER 19,91

---

TRUE COPY

June 10, 2026



MORGAN NAQUIN  
DEPUTY CLERK

Panel composed of Judges Fredericka Homberg Wicker,  
John J. Molaison, Jr., and Scott U. Schlegel

**WRIT GRANTED**

The trial court has the discretion to limit the scope of examination of prospective jurors. However, the trial court erred by concluding that testimony is strictly limited to the words a witness speaks. A leading question suggests the answer the witness is expected to give. *See State v. Odom*, 03-1772 (La. App. 1 Cir. 4/2/04), 878 So.2d 582, 592, *writ denied*, 04-1105 (La. 10/8/04), 883 So.2d 1026. When a witness gives affirmative answers to leading questions, those answers become the witness's adopted sworn testimony.

Accordingly, we grant the writ application and vacate the trial court's order and ruling.

Gretna, Louisiana, this 10th day of June, 2026.

**JJM  
FHW  
SUS**

SUSAN M. CHEHARDY  
CHIEF JUDGE

FREDERICKA H. WICKER  
JUDE G. GRAVOIS  
MARC E. JOHNSON  
STEPHEN J. WINDHORST  
JOHN J. MOLAISSON, JR.  
SCOTT U. SCHLEGEL  
TIMOTHY S. MARCEL

JUDGES



FIFTH CIRCUIT  
101 DERBIGNY STREET (70053)  
POST OFFICE BOX 489  
GRETNA, LOUISIANA 70054  
www.fifthcircuit.org

CURTIS B. PURSELL  
CLERK OF COURT

SUSAN S. BUCHHOLZ  
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

LINDA M. TRAN  
FIRST DEPUTY CLERK

MELISSA C. LEDET  
DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL STAFF

(504) 376-1400  
(504) 376-1498 FAX

**NOTICE OF DISPOSITION CERTIFICATE OF DELIVERY**

I CERTIFY THAT A COPY OF THE DISPOSITION IN THE FOREGOING MATTER HAS BEEN TRANSMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH **UNIFORM RULES - COURT OF APPEAL, RULE 4-6** THIS DAY **06/10/2026** TO THE TRIAL JUDGE, THE TRIAL COURT CLERK OF COURT, AND AT LEAST ONE OF THE COUNSEL OF RECORD FOR EACH PARTY, AND TO EACH PARTY NOT REPRESENTED BY COUNSEL, AS LISTED BELOW:

**CURTIS B. PURSELL**  
CLERK OF COURT

**26-K-257**

**E-NOTIFIED**

40th District Court (Clerk)  
Honorable Nghana Lewis (DISTRICT JUDGE)  
Bridget A. Dinvaout (Respondent)

Jarrett P. Ambeau (Relator)  
Eusi H. Phillips (Respondent)

**MAILED**