

**STATE OF LOUISIANA IN
THE INTEREST OF C.J.**

*
*
*
*

NO. 2014-CA-0241

COURT OF APPEAL

FOURTH CIRCUIT

STATE OF LOUISIANA

* * * * *

APPEAL FROM
JUVENILE COURT ORLEANS PARISH
NO. 2013-170-09-DQ-E, SECTION "E"
Honorable Yolanda King, Judge

* * * * *

Judge Edwin A. Lombard

* * * * *

(Court composed of Judge Terri F. Love, Judge Edwin A. Lombard, Judge Roland L. Belsome, Judge Madeleine M. Landrieu, Judge Sandra C. Jenkins)

ON APPLICATION FOR REHEARING

LOVE, J., DISSENTS AND ASSIGNS REASONS

Leon A. Cannizzaro, Jr.
District Attorney
J. Bryant Clark, Jr.
Assistant District Attorney
Mithun Kamath
Law Clerk
Parish of Orleans
619 South White Street
New Orleans, LA 70119

COUNSEL FOR APPELLEE/STATE OF LOUISIANA

Katherine M. Franks
LOUISIANA APPELLATE PROJECT
P.O. Box 1677
Abita Springs, LA 70420-1677

COUNSEL FOR APPELLANT

REHEARING GRANTED FOR CLARIFICATION ONLY

On application for rehearing, counsel for the juvenile correctly points out that the standard of review in a juvenile proceeding is a dual one. Although the State's burden of proof in a juvenile proceeding is the same as in a criminal proceeding, delinquency proceedings are civil in nature and our scope of review extends to both law and facts. *State in the Interest of Batiste*, 367 So.2d 784, 788 (La. 1979). As such, however, "a factual finding made by a trial court in a juvenile adjudication may not be disturbed by an appellate court unless the record evidence as a whole does not furnish a basis for it, or it is clearly wrong." *State in the Interest of J.J.*, 13-0548, pp. 2-3 (La. App. 4 Cir. 9/25/13), 125 So.3d 1248, 1250); *see also In re A.J.F.*, 00-0948 (La. 6/30/00), 764 47, 61 ("an appellate court cannot set aside a juvenile court's findings of fact in the absence of manifest error or unless those findings are clearly wrong"); *Rosell v. ESCO*, 549 So.2d 840, 844 (La. 1989) ("if the trial court or jury findings are reasonable in light of the record reviewed in its entirety, the court of appeal may not reverse even though convinced that had it been sitting as the trier of fact, it would have weighed the evidence differently"). Thus, even where there are two permissible views of the evidence, the fact finder's choice cannot be clearly wrong and an appellate court may not substitute its opinion for that of the juvenile court

judge “who is in the unique position to see and hear the witnesses as they testify.” *In re A.J.F.*, 764 So.2d at 62.

As previously narrated, Mr. Estopinal testified that C.J. walked into the cafeteria and struck C.E. on the head three times and then, after being removed for five to ten minutes, returned and punched J.B. in the back of the head “once or twice, maybe three times;” both C.E. and J.B. reacted in pain and, according to Mr. Estopinal, the attack was unprovoked. Although appellate counsel suggests that there may have been a prior provocation in a shared dorm room, the defense presented no evidence relating to a prior provocation at the delinquency hearing and, contrary to appellate counsel’s suggestion, the burden was not on the State to prove the absence of any prior provocation.

Accordingly, because we were remiss in omitting reference to the civil standard of review, we grant rehearing for the limited purpose of iterating that under both the “rational fact-finder” (criminal) standard of *Jackson v. Virginia* and the “clearly wrong-manifest error” (civil) standard of *Rosell v. ESCO*, the testimony of Mr. Estopinal supports the trial court judgment adjudicating the juvenile a delinquent.

REHEARING GRANTED FOR CLARIFICATION ONLY