

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF THE STATE OF OREGON

STATE OF OREGON,  
Plaintiff-Respondent,

v.

MICHAEL LEE REINEKE,  
Defendant-Appellant.

Washington County Circuit Court  
C101164CR

A149095

D. Charles Bailey, Jr., Judge.

Argued and submitted on November 25, 2013.

Zachary Lovett Mazer, Deputy Public Defender, argued the cause for appellant. With him on the briefs was Peter Gartlan, Chief Defender, Office of Public Defense Services.

Jennifer S. Lloyd, Senior Assistant Attorney General, argued the cause for respondent. On the briefs were Ellen F. Rosenblum, Attorney General, Anna M. Joyce, Solicitor General, and Janet A. Klapstein, Senior Assistant Attorney General.

Before Armstrong, Presiding Judge, and Nakamoto, Judge, and Egan, Judge.

NAKAMOTO, J.

Reversed and remanded.

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**DESIGNATION OF PREVAILING PARTY AND AWARD OF COSTS**

Prevailing party: Appellant

- No costs allowed.
  - Costs allowed, payable by
  - Costs allowed, to abide the outcome on remand, payable by
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1                    NAKAMOTO, J.

2                    Defendant appeals a judgment convicting him of murder, ORS 163.115,  
3 raising 15 assignments of error. We write to address defendant's fourth assignment of  
4 error, in which he contends that the trial court erred in failing to sustain his objection to  
5 the prosecution's PowerPoint presentation in its closing argument, which he contends  
6 impermissibly commented on his invocation of his right to remain silent. For the reasons  
7 below, we agree with defendant and, accordingly, reverse and remand for a new trial.<sup>1</sup>

8                    I. FACTS AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

9                    Defendant called 9-1-1 and told the dispatcher to send a coroner and a  
10 police officer to a house on Barcelona Way. When emergency responders and deputy  
11 sheriffs arrived, they found the victim, defendant's mother, lying in her kitchen with a  
12 pool of blood around her head and a phone cord around her neck. Defendant remained  
13 outside the house with Deputy DuPont, who requested during their conversation that  
14 defendant go to the sheriff's office and talk to Detective Rau, the main detective assigned  
15 to the investigation. Defendant agreed but told DuPont, while looking at the house, that  
16 he "wasn't talking about that." DuPont took defendant to the sheriff's office, where they  
17 talked for approximately 30 minutes until detectives Rau and Hays entered the interview  
18 room.

19                    Rau informed defendant that they intended to apply for a warrant or to get

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<sup>1</sup> We reject without discussion defendant's eighth assignment of error to the denial of his motion to suppress. Given our disposition, we need not reach defendant's other assignments of error.

1 consent to search the house and asked for defendant's consent. Defendant first replied  
2 that the house was not his. However, in response to questions, defendant said that he had  
3 been staying at the victim's house for the past several nights, and Rau said that he thought  
4 that defendant had the authority to consent to a search. Defendant reviewed and decided  
5 to sign a consent form for a search of the house.

6           Rau then gave defendant *Miranda* warnings and asked whether defendant  
7 wanted to talk. Defendant stated that he did not want to talk and invoked his right to  
8 counsel. Defendant was then arrested and taken to a holding cell. Rau and Hays later  
9 returned to the holding cell, and Rau told defendant that they were going to charge him  
10 with murder. Defendant was later charged by indictment with intentional murder.

11           At trial, defense counsel elicited testimony from Hays on cross-examination  
12 that he had not recorded the interactions with defendant at the sheriff's office but that  
13 technology had been available to do both audio and video recordings. During redirect,  
14 the prosecutor indicated that she had a matter for the court. With the jury out of the  
15 courtroom, the prosecutor argued that defendant's questioning of Hays had opened the  
16 door for the state to ask Hays why he had not recorded defendant at the sheriff's office,  
17 because the jury had been left with the impression, and the defense could argue, that  
18 Hays "willfully neglected" to record defendant or that the detectives "couldn't do their  
19 job." Defense counsel responded that he had not opened the door and that the focus of  
20 his questioning was on the accuracy of what Hays remembered about defendant's reaction  
21 when he was told that he was being booked for murder.

1           The trial court concluded that defense counsel had opened the door to an  
2 explanation by Hays regarding the lack of a recording but told counsel that it was going  
3 to limit the state's redirect on that subject to one question: "Why didn't you videotape or  
4 record your conversation with the defendant when you went in to tell him he was under  
5 arrest?" The court warned defense counsel that, if he argued to the jurors in closing  
6 argument that the detectives had the means but failed to use them to record defendant, it  
7 would allow the state to reopen its case and present evidence that defendant had invoked  
8 his right to remain silent. The court then directed Hays to state the response that he  
9 would be giving to that question. Apparently satisfied with that response, the court  
10 brought the jury back into the courtroom.

11           The prosecutor then asked Hays why he had not recorded his interactions  
12 with defendant, eliciting an answer that the reason he had not done so was because  
13 defendant had invoked his right to remain silent:

14           "Q     Detective Hays, why didn't you use any of the videotape or  
15 other audio recording devices to record your interactions with the defendant  
16 at the Sheriff's Office?

17           "A     [Defendant] declined to talk to us, so the interview never  
18 went any further.

19           "Q     And when you went back in to inform him that he was under  
20 arrest, why didn't you record that?

21           "A     When we went and had contact with him at the holding cell, it  
22 was to let him know that he was then going to be taken down to the jail and  
23 booked on the charge. It was simply a statement to let him know what was  
24 going on. We were not questioning him in any way. We were not trying to  
25 elicit an answer from him. We simply were letting him know what was  
26 happening next, and we were not expecting him to then ask us a question,  
27 or give any response whatsoever.

1                    "We also do not use recording devices to record people without their  
2                    knowledge. I wouldn't go up and start talking to a subject with a recorder  
3                    going without them knowing it was going on. So, we never had any intent  
4                    of getting information from him, so there was no reason for us to record."

5                    Defendant did not object to the way the questioning occurred during redirect.

6                    As part of her closing argument, the prosecutor used a PowerPoint  
7                    presentation, which corresponded with her oral argument to the jury. The prosecutor  
8                    began her argument by outlining the elements of the offense and pointing out which  
9                    elements were in dispute. The prosecutor then argued that the operative question in this  
10                    case was "did the State prove to you beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant  
11                    murdered [the victim?]" At that point, the prosecutor displayed a PowerPoint slide that  
12                    had defendant's photograph in the center of the slide with the word "GUILTY" in large  
13                    red capital letters underneath it. That slide also included four phrases. The first phrase  
14                    ("Only he has motive") was located directly above defendant's photograph at the twelve  
15                    o'clock position, with an arrow pointing down from that phrase to defendant's  
16                    photograph. To each side of the photograph, the slide listed two other phrases ("His  
17                    DNA on the murder weapon," and "His actions and words at the scene of the crime"),  
18                    each with arrows pointing from the phrase to defendant's photograph. Finally, below  
19                    defendant's photograph and the word "GUILTY" was the phrase, "His refusal to speak at  
20                    the police station." Like the other phrases on the slide, an arrow pointed from that phrase  
21                    to defendant's picture. However, the positioning of the phrase, "His refusal to speak at  
22                    the police station," was such that the arrow not only pointed to defendant's picture, but  
23                    also pointed directly to the word "GUILTY" that was located under the picture.

1                   As this "GUILTY" slide was on display, the prosecutor referenced it by  
2 stating:

3                   "I submit to you that the evidence proves beyond a reasonable doubt  
4 that the defendant and nobody else, the defendant is the one who killed [the  
5 victim]. There are a lot of reasons why I group them into four main  
6 categories, and I'll discuss each in more depth as we turn through the  
7 evidence in this case.

8 The prosecutor then orally listed each category of evidence that she argued proved that  
9 defendant was guilty of murder, which corresponded with the phrases on the "GUILTY"  
10 slide:

11                   "Number one, he and only he has the motivation to have killed this  
12 woman. He and only he, and the evidence shows that.

13                   "Number two, his actions and words at the scene of the crime. The  
14 evidence surrounding his actions and words at the scene of the crime prove  
15 that he killed [the victim].

16                   "Number three, his refusal to speak at the police station with the  
17 detectives investigating this case."

18 At that point, defense counsel objected, and the trial court sustained that objection. The  
19 prosecutor asked to approach, to which the court replied, "You may continue." The  
20 prosecutor continued by listing the fourth category of evidence, defendant's DNA on the  
21 murder weapon.

22                   The prosecutor then proceeded to walk through each category of evidence  
23 individually. Beginning with the first category ("Only he has motive"), the prosecutor  
24 displayed a version of the "GUILTY" slide that only contained that phrase and the arrow  
25 pointing to defendant's photograph with the word "GUILTY" below it. She then  
26 displayed slides with bullet points summarizing the evidence of defendant's motive.

1 After she was finished with that category of evidence, she followed the same process  
2 with the other categories, except that the other three phrases on the initial "GUILTY"  
3 slide were added back onto the slide as she reached each category.

4 In conjunction with the state's argument concerning the second category of  
5 evidence (defendant's actions and words at the scene), the prosecutor mentioned that  
6 defendant never asked the deputy "a single question about his mother," which was also a  
7 factual highlight listed on a frame of the PowerPoint presentation. Defendant objected  
8 and moved to strike the comment, and the court sustained the objection and struck the  
9 state's comment.

10 When discussing the third category of evidence, which the prosecutor  
11 displayed on the PowerPoint presentation as "His refusal to speak at the police station,"  
12 the prosecutor showed the jury a slide containing the following bulleted factual points,  
13 which the prosecutor argued in turn:

14 "Brought in to Sheriff's Office for questioning

15 "Happily talking about skateboarding

16 "Detectives come in → he is all about business

17 "Won't even discuss how long has been in this house

18 "Refuses to speak about what happened[.]"

19 Among other things, the prosecutor recounted that defendant's affect changed when Hays  
20 and Rau went into the interview room and told the jury that he would not "even discuss  
21 how long he's been in the residence" and was not "forthcoming" with the detectives.

22 Defendant objected, but the prosecutor went on to say that the "free flow of information"

1 stopped when Hays and Rau were asking defendant questions. Defendant objected again.  
2 The trial court overruled both objections. Shortly thereafter, defendant also objected to  
3 the PowerPoint presentation, and the trial court overruled that objection as well.

4 All told, in three separate frames of the PowerPoint presentation, the jury  
5 saw "His refusal to speak at the police station" with an arrow pointing to "GUILTY." It  
6 is not apparent from the record how long each of the "GUILTY" frames remained visible  
7 to the jury, but it appears that the frame with the bulleted factual points concerning  
8 defendant's refusal to speak at the police station, including the last bullet point, "Refuses  
9 to speak about what happened," was before the jury while the prosecutor argued all of the  
10 factual points listed on the frame.

11 At the conclusion of the state's closing argument, the trial court invited  
12 closing argument from defendant. Defendant proceeded to argue, among other things,  
13 that the investigation was faulty. Defendant contended that detectives should have talked  
14 to the victim's former husband, defendant's father, because he was likely to know about  
15 the victim's social contacts and other information that could have been helpful, and to  
16 associates at the senior center that the victim frequented. Defendant also faulted the  
17 detectives for looking at only "one week's worth of telephone records," incompletely  
18 analyzing the victim's computer, failing to review the victim's financial records, and  
19 otherwise undertaking an investigation that was too brief. Defendant also argued that the  
20 victim was depressed and it was "a reasonable possibility" that she had committed suicide  
21 while defendant was outside working on a bicycle. After defendant's closing, the court



1 door to the admission of the fact that he had invoked his right to remain silent, the state  
2 was not allowed to argue that his silence was evidence of his guilt. Accordingly, he  
3 contends that the trial court erred when it overruled his objection to the state's  
4 PowerPoint presentation and that, because that error was prejudicial to his right to a fair  
5 trial, we must reverse and remand for a new trial.

6           In response, the state concedes that "components of the PowerPoint  
7 presentation placed unnecessary emphasis on defendant's invocation" but argues that  
8 defendant's claim on appeal fails because he "did not object to particular slides when  
9 shown," and therefore "it is impossible to determine whether the slides were visible to  
10 jurors for more time than the flip of a switch." At oral argument before us, the state also  
11 argued that, despite the fact that some of the PowerPoint slides focused on defendant's  
12 refusal to speak to the police, the focus of the prosecutor's *oral* argument to the jury was  
13 on the change in defendant's behavior, not on the fact that he had invoked his right to  
14 remain silent. We agree with defendant that the trial court committed reversible error  
15 when it overruled his objection to the state's PowerPoint presentation.

16           A criminal defendant has a right to remain silent under Article I, section 12,  
17 of the Oregon Constitution, *State v. Wederski*, 230 Or 57, 62, 368 P2d 393 (1962), and  
18 the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution, *Griffin v.*  
19 *California*, 380 US 609, 615, 85 S Ct 1229, 14 L Ed 2d 106 (1965).<sup>2</sup> The Oregon

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<sup>2</sup> Article I, section 12, provides in part: "No person shall \* \* \* be compelled in any criminal prosecution to testify against himself." The Fifth Amendment provides in part: "No person \* \* \* shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against

1 Supreme Court has held that "the Oregon Constitution does not permit a prosecutor to  
2 draw the jury's attention to a defendant's exercise of the right to remain silent." *State v.*  
3 *Larson*, 325 Or 15, 22, 933 P2d 958 (1997). Similarly, the United States Supreme Court  
4 has held that the federal constitution prohibits the prosecution from commenting on a  
5 defendant's invocation of his or her right to remain silent. *Griffin*, 380 US at 615.

6           In this case, the state concedes that portions of the PowerPoint presentation  
7 "placed unnecessary emphasis on defendant's invocation." We agree. The prosecution's  
8 PowerPoint presentation contained multiple slides that referenced defendant's invocation  
9 of his right to remain silent, including the three slides with the phrase, "His refusal to  
10 speak at the police station," and the one slide that states, "Refuses to speak about what  
11 happened." The state does not argue that those references were permissible because  
12 defendant had earlier opened the door to evidence of his silence during his cross-  
13 examination of Hays. However, because it appears that the trial court may have ruled on  
14 defendant's objection to the PowerPoint presentation on that basis, we consider whether  
15 doing so was legally correct.

16           We have recognized that, while it is ordinarily improper for a prosecutor to  
17 comment on a defendant's silence, a "prosecutor has the right \* \* \* to reply to argument  
18 made by opposing counsel, and, in doing so, statements may be made which otherwise  
19 would be improper." *State v. Guritz*, 134 Or App 262, 270, 894 P2d 1235, *rev den*, 321  
20 Or 560 (1995); *see also State v. Miranda*, 309 Or 121, 128, 786 P2d 155, *cert den*, 498

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himself[.]"

1 US 879 (1990) ("A defendant's own inquiry on direct examination into the contents of  
2 otherwise inadmissible statements opens the door to further inquiry on cross-examination  
3 relating to those same statements."). However, a prosecutor's right to reply is limited and  
4 confines the prosecutor's response to evidence or argument that rebuts the impression  
5 created by the defendant. *See, e.g., Guritz*, 134 Or App at 270 (concluding that the  
6 prosecutor was permitted to respond to defense counsel's comments about the inadequacy  
7 of the detective's investigation by telling the jury that the defendant had cut short the  
8 interview by invoking his right to remain silent).

9           Thus, even if a defendant opens the door to evidence of the defendant's  
10 silence, a prosecutor cannot argue that the defendant is guilty because he or she invoked  
11 the right to remain silent. *See United States v. Gant*, 17 F3d 935, 941 (7th Cir 1994)  
12 ("[T]he government may use [a] defendant's silence for the limited purpose of  
13 impeaching his testimony; it may not argue that the defendant's silence is inconsistent  
14 with his claim of innocence."); *United States v. Martinez-Larraga*, 517 F3d 258, 268 (5th  
15 Cir 2008) (acknowledging that that circuit, as well as other courts, have continued to  
16 recognize the "open the door" exception to the rule against the prosecution commenting  
17 on a defendant's post-*Miranda* silence, "while likewise recognizing that it does not permit  
18 the prosecution to argue that the jury should infer \* \* \* [the defendant's] guilt directly  
19 from his post-arrest silence" (internal quotation marks omitted; brackets in *Martinez-*  
20 *Larraga*)); *State v. Hargrove*, 48 Kan App 2d 522, 540, 293 P3d 787, 800 (2013) ("The  
21 exception allows a surgical rebuttal confined to countering a cultivated and deceptive

1 depiction of the evidence rather than a wide open use of the defendant's silence to prove  
2 guilt--the vice *Doyle* [*v. Ohio*, 426 US 610, 96 S Ct 2240, 49 L Ed 2d 91 (1976)] intended  
3 to eliminate.").

4           In this case, assuming, without deciding, that defendant's cross-examination  
5 of Hays opened the door to evidence of his silence, the prosecutor was allowed only to  
6 use that evidence to rebut any misimpressions created by defendant.<sup>3</sup> The prosecutor  
7 could not argue that defendant's refusal to speak to the police was evidence of his guilt--  
8 which is exactly what she did in her PowerPoint presentation. Therefore, we conclude  
9 that the prosecutor's references to defendant's silence in the PowerPoint presentation were  
10 improper and were not justified under the "open the door" exception to the rule against  
11 comments on a defendant's silence. Accordingly, the trial court erred when it overruled  
12 defendant's objection to the state's PowerPoint presentation. We next consider whether,  
13 as defendant contends, that was reversible error requiring a new trial.

14           The Oregon Supreme Court has explained that "[t]here is no doubt that it is  
15 usually reversible error to admit evidence of the exercise by a defendant of the rights  
16 which the constitution gives him if it is done in a context whereupon inferences  
17 prejudicial to the defendant are likely to be drawn by the jury." *State v. Smallwood*, 277  
18 Or 503, 505-06, 561 P2d 600, *cert den*, 434 US 849 (1977). Thus, "[a] reference by a

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<sup>3</sup> On appeal, defendant challenges the trial court's conclusion that his cross-examination of Hays opened the door to admission of evidence of his invocation of his right to remain silent. However, because our resolution of his assignment of error relating to the state's PowerPoint presentation is dispositive, we need not decide whether the court erred in reaching that conclusion.

1 prosecutor or a witness to the fact that a defendant exercised a constitutional right, such  
2 as the right to remain silent, 'may prejudice the defendant's ability to have a fair trial if  
3 the jury is likely to infer that the defendant exercised the right because he or she was  
4 guilty of the charged offense.'" *State v. Osorno*, 264 Or App 742, 748, 333 P3d 1163  
5 (2014) (quoting *State v. Veatch*, 223 Or App 444, 455-56, 196 P3d 45 (2008)); *cf.*  
6 *Ragland*, 210 Or App at 190 (explaining that "[a] question or comment made in passing  
7 that touches on a defendant's exercise of Fifth Amendment rights does not necessarily  
8 require reversal" in the absence of a prejudicial inference).

9           We have no trouble concluding that the jury in this case was likely to draw  
10 a prejudicial inference from the prosecutor's references to defendant's invocation in her  
11 PowerPoint presentation. The prosecutor's PowerPoint presentation expressly urged the  
12 jury to decide that defendant's refusal to speak to the police was one of the four reasons  
13 that he was guilty of murdering the victim. The state argues that we should not conclude  
14 that defendant was prejudiced because we cannot determine how long the "GUILTY"  
15 PowerPoint slides were in front of the jury. The record, however, demonstrates that the  
16 prosecutor used the PowerPoint presentation in conjunction with her oral argument,  
17 which tracked what was on the slides, and that at least three slides implied that defendant  
18 was guilty because he "refus[ed] to speak at the police station." Those repeated  
19 references to defendant's silence and guilt during closing argument were not subtle,  
20 isolated, or fleeting. For the same reason, we reject the state's argument that the  
21 prosecutor's oral statements to the jury somehow detracted from the direct implication in

1 the PowerPoint slides that defendant's refusal to speak indicated that he was guilty. We  
2 conclude that it is highly likely that the jury drew an adverse inference that defendant's  
3 refusal to speak to the detectives was evidence of his guilt. *Cf. State v. McClatchey*, 259  
4 Or App 531, 541, 314 P3d 721 (2013) (concluding that the jury was unlikely to draw  
5 adverse inferences regarding the defendant's guilt from the officer's testimony about the  
6 defendant's statement that he "'didn't want to say anything,'" because, among other things,  
7 the reference to the defendant's statement was "isolated" and neither the prosecutor nor  
8 any witness referred to it again). Accordingly, the trial court erred when it failed to  
9 sustain defendant's objection to the PowerPoint presentation. Because defendant's right  
10 to a fair trial was prejudiced, we reverse and remand for a new trial.<sup>4</sup>

11                   Reversed and remanded.

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<sup>4</sup> Given our disposition of defendant's assignment of error regarding the prosecution's PowerPoint presentation, we need not reach his arguments regarding the prosecutor's remarks about the change in defendant's demeanor. Nor do we need to consider whether the trial court erred in denying defendant's motion for a mistrial. *See Ragland*, 210 Or App at 191 (trial court's failure to sustain the defendant's objection to the prosecutor's remarks in closing argument that commented on the defendant's right to remain silent was reversible error).