

**STATE v. SOLOMON TAYLOR, AC 39659**

*Judicial District of Waterbury*

**Criminal; Whether Attorney's Disqualification Denied Defendant Right to Counsel of His Choice; Whether Evidence Sufficient to Support Convictions of Robbery, Conspiracy to Commit Robbery.** The defendant was charged in connection with the 2012 shooting death of David Caban. The state alleged that the defendant and Joseph Walker conspired to rob Caban of crack cocaine and that, during the course of the robbery, the defendant or Walker fatally shot Caban in the head. Although the defendant was represented initially by Attorney Vicki Hutchinson, the state moved that Hutchinson be disqualified from representing him, claiming that she had a conflict of interest because she had previously represented Julian Waren. The state claimed that it expected Waren to testify at the defendant's trial that he knew that the defendant possessed a .38 caliber handgun, which matched other witness' description of the firearm used to kill Caban. Hutchinson disclaimed any conflict of interest, and the defendant, after being canvassed, waived any potential conflict of interest, asserting that he wanted Hutchinson to continue to represent him. Nevertheless, the trial court ruled that Hutchinson was disqualified, and a different attorney was appointed to represent the defendant at trial. The defendant elected to be tried by a three-judge panel, and he was convicted, inter alia, of murder, robbery, and conspiracy to commit robbery. He appeals, claiming that the trial court violated his constitutional right to counsel of his choice by disqualifying Hutchinson from representing him. The defendant also claims that there was insufficient evidence presented at trial to support his convictions of robbery and conspiracy to commit robbery. He contends that there was no evidence that Caban was robbed or that he and Walker conspired to rob him.