



## **ADVISORY: WEBCAST OF COURT PROCEEDING**

**Wednesday, March 16, 2022**

Members of the media and the public are advised that the following proceedings in the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal will be livestreamed on the Courts of Nova Scotia website on Tuesday, March 22, and Wednesday, March 23, 2022:

**CAC-496279 - Samanda Rose Ritch Vs. Her Majesty the Queen**  
**CAC-496989 - Calvin J. M. Sparks Vs. Her Majesty the Queen**

On Dec. 14, 2019, following a six-week trial in the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia, a jury found Ms. Ritch and Mr. Sparks guilty of first-degree murder in the 2017 death of Nadia Gonzales. Mr. Sparks was also convicted of unlawfully causing bodily harm to John Patterson.

The Appellants are appealing their convictions on several grounds. Counsel for Ms. Ritch submits the trial judge erred in her instructions to the jury and by allowing a statement she made to an undercover police officer to be admitted as evidence at trial. Counsel for Mr. Sparks submits the trial judge erred in her instructions to the jury and in failing to direct the jury to cease their deliberations once they asked to rehear the evidence of a witness.

These appeals will be heard jointly. The proceedings are scheduled for two full days beginning at 10 a.m. AST on Tuesday, March 22. These matters will be heard by a three-member panel comprised of Justice Duncan Beveridge, Justice Cindy Bourgeois, and Justice Anne Derrick.

The panel of judges and counsel will appear in person in Courtroom 502 at the Halifax Law Courts. All court participants are reminded to review the Court of Appeal's [Practice Directive for Appeal Proceedings during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#).

The public can watch the livestream on the Courts of Nova Scotia website [here](#).

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