

# Trial begins for teen charged with murder

[LATE TAMPA Edition]

St. Petersburg Times - St. Petersburg, Fla.

Author: KEVIN GRAHAM

Date: Jan 11, 2006

Start Page: 3.B

Text Word Count: 610

---

## Document Text

---

(ran SS edition of METRO & STATE)

Donna Clemons put her hand to her face Tuesday and turned her head away in court as a prosecutor unrolled the blood-stained rug where her daughter once lay, fighting for her life.

She closed her eyes when a sheriff's deputy testified how he climbed into a trash bin to check the pulse of Emily Ann Clemons, 16, wrapped in a comforter and thrown there after being beaten at her ex-boyfriend's apartment.

Emily Clemons' ex, Rocky Alместica Jr., was found guilty in November 2004 of second-degree murder in her death. A judge sentenced him last year to life in prison.

Now Alместica's girlfriend is on trial. Laisha Landrum is charged with first-degree murder and tampering with physical evidence. Prosecutor Donna Hanes said the couple used two pots, a hammer and a radio to beat Clemons on her head. They landed blows at least 34 times, Hanes said. Both Alместica and Landrum were also 16 at the time.

Hillsborough sheriff's Cpl. Daniel Luvinski arrived first at the Amaretto Apartments on N 22nd Street during the early hours of June 10, 2004. Someone had called 911 to say they heard noises - maybe from a trapped animal - coming from the trash bin.

Inside, he found Emily Clemons, unresponsive.

"Can you hear me? Can you hear me?" Luvinski recalled asking Clemons, during the first day of testimony in Landrum's trial.

Clemons died hours later at a hospital. Prosecutors said she had been bludgeoned on her head so badly a piece of her skull was missing.

Landrum's attorney, Brian Gonzalez, told jurors that Landrum and Clemons did fight that night. But Landrum didn't kill her, he said.

"There was only one person responsible for this murder, and he's not on trial before you this week. Laisha Landrum is," Gonzalez said.

He said that Clemons went to the Amaretto Apartments around 9:30 p.m. June 9, 2004, where Alместica and Landrum lived with their infant and Alместica's father. Landrum told investigators that when she opened the door, Clemons barged in with an object and cut her on the arm. She threatened to kill Landrum and her baby, then headed for the crib.

But the infant wasn't home. When the two teen girls came face to face, Clemons kicked Landrum in the stomach and legs, Gonzalez said. Landrum fought back at first with her fists.

Gonzalez said that when Clemons began to attack Alместica, her ex-boyfriend, Landrum grabbed a pot from the kitchen and hit Clemons once in the head. Clemons fell to the ground then got up and walked out the apartment.

Landrum said she heard a "thud" outside after Clemons left. But she didn't check to see what caused it.

### Hawaii Travel Packages

Save hundreds now on your next trip to Hawaii.  
[www.GoHawaii.com/Vacation](http://www.GoHawaii.com/Vacation)

### Online News Archive

Find Old Newspaper Articles & Obituaries. Try It Out For Free!  
[www.HighBeam.com](http://www.HighBeam.com)

### Fall Protection Safety

Turnkey Fall Protection Solutions Engineered Fall Protection Systems  
[www.TritechFallProtection.com](http://www.TritechFallProtection.com)

Ads by Google

Gonzalez said that Clemons was jealous of the relationship between Landrum and Alместica. Donna Clemons testified that her daughter had been pregnant with Alместica's baby but had a miscarriage. Gonzalez said Emily Clemons was obsessed with Alместica and wished she had had his child.

Prosecutors called Marshall Watson, a friend to Alместica and Landrum, who testified he saw Clemons' bloodied body at the young couple's apartment. Landrum had asked him to help Alместica get rid of the body. But he refused, insisting that they call 911.

The jury also heard videotaped testimony from a man who lived at the Amaretto and said he saw Landrum and Alместica making several trips to the trash bins that night.

Prosecutors plan to call more witnesses to the stand today. The trial is expected to last through the end of the week.

Kevin Graham can be reached at (813) 226-3433 or [kgraham@sptimes.com](mailto:kgraham@sptimes.com).

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction or distribution is prohibited without permission.

---

**Abstract (Document Summary)**

---

He said that Clemons went to the Amaretto Apartments around 9:30 p.m. June 9, 2004, where [Rocky Alместica Jr.] and [Laisha Landrum] lived with their infant and Alместica's father. Landrum told investigators that when she opened the door, Clemons barged in with an object and cut her on the arm. She threatened to kill Landrum and her baby, then headed for the crib.

[Brian Gonzalez] said that Clemons was jealous of the relationship between Landrum and Alместica. [Donna Clemons] testified that her daughter had been pregnant with Alместica's baby but had a miscarriage. Gonzalez said [Emily Ann Clemons] was obsessed with Alместica and wished she had had his child.

Prosecutors called Marshall Watson, a friend to Alместica and Landrum, who testified he saw Clemons' bloodied body at the young couple's apartment. Landrum had asked him to help Alместica get rid of the body. But he refused, insisting that they call 911.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction or distribution is prohibited without permission.

**WV Fall Foliage Tours**  
WV in Full Fall Bloom! Enjoy  
Tours, Festivals-Request Free  
Travel Guide  
[www.WVTraditions.com](http://www.WVTraditions.com)

**Crate & Barrel Candles**  
Shop Crate & Barrel for Festive  
Thanksgiving Candles. Buy Now!  
[www.CrateandBarrel.com](http://www.CrateandBarrel.com)

Ads by Google