

*CBS Mornings*

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2 minutes and 21 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Crucial Testimony]

NATE BURLESON: Hunter Biden's ex-wife could testify this morning at the criminal trial of the President's son, accused of lying about his drug use when he bought a gun in 2018. Jurors yesterday heard the defendant himself describe his past addiction. Scott McFarlane has more on the first day of testimony.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Hunter Biden Criminal Trial: Biden's Voice recordings Used as Evidence Against Him]

SCOTT MCFARLANE: Facing three felony charges and the prospect of prison time, it was Hunter Biden's own voice that was a key part of evidence that presented Tuesday. Prosecutors called in an FBI special agent as their first witness who played clips from Biden's 2021 audio book of his memoir, *Beautiful Things*, in which he recounts his descent into crack cocaine addiction, the same year he purchased a gun.

HUNTER BIDEN: I used my superpower finding crack anytime, anywhere. Less than a day after landing at LAX in the spring of 2018.

MCFARLANE: The First Lady and Hunter Biden's wife sat behind the President's son as the passages were played for the jury. Former federal prosecutor, Tom Dupree.

TOM DUPREE: There are a few things more effective before a jury than being able to show the jury what the defendant said. In this case, hearing the defendant's own voice describing his struggles with addiction.

MCFARLANE: Biden has pleaded not guilty to charges he made false statements on this federal background form by not acknowledging his drug use when applying for a Colt .38 handgun in October 2018, and then unlawfully possessing it. On Tuesday, the infamous laptop that Hunter Biden left at a Delaware repair shop in 2019 was also introduced into evidence. The FBI agent testified it contained messages detailing Biden's drug addiction. In his opening statement, Biden's defense attorney, Abbe Lowell, told jurors that Biden didn't knowingly violate the law, that Biden had been in rehab, and that the background form asked, are you using drugs, not have you ever used drugs?

DUPREE: I think from the defense's perspective, this case is going to rise and fall on whether or not the prosecutors can prove Hunter Biden's state of mind at the very moment that he made the fateful check mark on the federal gun form.

MCFARLANE: Biden's ex-wife is next on the witness list, and later, it's Hallie Biden. Prosecutors say it was Hallie who found and discarded that gun 11 days after it was purchased. She's testifying under an immunity agreement to testify about drug use. Vlad?

VLADIMIR DUTHIERS: Alright, to be continued. Scott, thanks very much.

(...)

8:01:00 a.m.

8 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Hunter Biden Trial]

BURLESON: Hunter Biden's ex-wife will likely testify today in his trial after prosecutors played tapes of his describing his drug addiction.