



Written by [R. Cort Kirkwood](#) on December 6, 2021

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Did Rittenhouse Prosecutor Threaten Jury?

Because of the many lies the media told about Kyle Rittenhouse after he shot three criminals in self-defense during last year's Jacob Blake riots in Kenosha, Wisconsin, we might easily have concluded that without conclusive video to show what happened, a jury would have convicted him. We can never know with certainty.

We do know the leftist media purposely misled millions of Americans about the case (see article on page 19). Those who didn't watch the trial and believe that the leftist media reports things fairly and accurately were understandably astonished by the verdict. Yet anyone who watched the trial, or major portions of it, or even those who simply saw the video, knows why the jury found Rittenhouse not guilty.



AP Images

Still, the jury required some degree of courage given how the leftist media and its Twitter auxiliary, with help from top Democrats, whipped up a mindless farrago of hatred. Rittenhouse was, they told us, a white supremacist murderer. A domestic terrorist. A murdering racist.

Yet the leftist megaphone wasn't the only threat jurors had to ignore. In his closing arguments, Prosecutor Thomas Binger pointed Rittenhouse's AR-15 at them.

The move was meant to be dramatic, and supposedly Binger wanted to show the jury what it's like to be on the business end of a semi-automatic rifle with a military appearance.

The weapon itself was the subject of a lie that spread like the black oil virus on *The X Files*. Rittenhouse, who had no connection to Kenosha and "didn't belong there," the hate-Rittenhouse Left alleged, "crossed state lines with an illegal assault rifle."

In fact, Rittenhouse had deep ties to Kenosha. His relatives live there and he worked there. He went there to help clean up the mess rioters left, provide first aid, and, if necessary, protect businesses. More importantly, he did not carry the weapon across state lines. It was already in Kenosha, at a friend's house.

Here's how firmly attached some are to the hate-Rittenhouse narrative. Famed director and *All in the Family* actor Rob Reiner tweeted that key anti-Rittenhouse lie *five days after* the verdict.

"An underaged kid illegally takes an assault rifle across state lines," Reiner began in a tweet that called President Trump a "mentally-ill racist."

The mayor of New York said the same thing.

But forget the lies about Rittenhouse and his trusty AR-15. Binger emphasized that it was loaded with



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full-metal-jacket bullets, an insignificant detail clearly meant to conjure images of automatic gunfire and bloodshed, apropos of Stanley Kubrick's Vietnam War epic, *Full Metal Jacket*.

And that wasn't the only terrifying image Binger wanted jurors to see.

Now, remember what Binger did with the rifle.

The widely accepted explanation for Binger's rifle stunt is that he wanted the jury to feel the same fear as the men whom Rittenhouse shot: boy rapist Joseph Rosenbaum, convicted strangler and domestic abuser Anthony Huber — both dead — and longtime criminal Gaige Grosskreutz, whom Rittenhouse wounded. Rittenhouse fired two shots at career criminal Jump Kick Man, who kicked the then-17-year-old in the face.

And so Binger dramatically raised the rifle to his shoulder, and with his finger on the trigger, pointed it at the jury.

"The defendant comes running in, and drops the fire extinguisher on the ground," Binger said in explaining that Rittenhouse provoked Rosenbaum, "then raises his left hand to the gun and points." That provocation, Binger explained, vitiated Rittenhouse's right to self-defense.

Understandably, pro-gun social media eviscerated Binger, who broke two major commandments of firearms safety: never point a gun, loaded or unloaded, at anyone unless you intend to shoot, and don't put your finger on the trigger, just in case it's loaded, unless you intend to shoot.

"Binger is a recent graduate from the Alec Baldwin School of Firearm Safety," a joke on Twitter went. Baldwin had recently killed a co-worker on a movie set after he pointed a prop gun at her, although he claimed he didn't pull the trigger.

So a veteran prosecutor could pontificate in detail about full-metal-jacket bullets but didn't know basic gun safety. Or perhaps not. Maybe Binger knew exactly what he was doing. Maybe he was sending an unspoken message to jurors: You better not vote to acquit, or this might await you when Black Lives Matter explodes in righteous fury.

After all, Binger told the jury, "Anyone with a gun is a threat, unless you're the defendant." That would include a prosecutor.

So again, one must ask why he pointed the weapon at the jury. His case had fallen apart. His own witnesses undermined it. Maybe the only chance left to save it was a subtle threat: Don't get this wrong ... or else.

Jurors must have been tempted to duck.



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