MISSOURI COURT OF APPEALS
WESTERN DISTRICT

STATE OF MISSOURI

RESPONDENT,

v.

MELISSA ANN GLAZE

APPELLANT.

DOCKET NUMBER WD82708

DATE: August 18, 2020

Appeal From:

Saline County Circuit Court
The Honorable Dennis A. Rolf, Judge

Appellate Judges:

Division Four: Cynthia L. Martin, Chief Judge, Presiding, Alok Ahuja, Judge and Thomas N. Chapman, Judge

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Attorneys:

Julia E. Rives, Jefferson City, MO, for respondent.

James C. Egan, Columbia, MO, for appellant.

MISSOURI APPELLATE COURT OPINION SUMMARY

MISSOURI COURT OF APPEALS
WESTERN DISTRICT

STATE OF MISSOURI, RESPONDENT,
v.
MELISSA ANN GLAZE, APPELLANT.

WD82708 Saline County

Before Division Four Judges: Cynthia L. Martin, Chief Judge, Presiding, Alok Ahuja, Judge, and Thomas N. Chapman, Judge

Melissa Glaze appeals from the trial court's entry of judgment convicting her of possession of a controlled substance and of unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia following a bench trial. Glaze challenges the sufficiency of the evidence to support her convictions, particularly that she had knowledge of, and an intent to exercise control over, the methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia found in the vehicle in which she was a passenger.

AFFIRMED.

Division Four holds:

Sufficient evidence was presented at trial to permit the inference that Glaze, as a joint occupant in the vehicle, had knowledge of and exercised control over the methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia found in the vehicle because the evidence included: (1) a sizeable quantity of drugs was found in a black bag; (2) the black bag was found on the front passenger floorboard so that Glaze, as the person sitting in the front passenger seat, had both easy access to it and superior access to it as compared to the driver; (3) Glaze was looking at the front passenger floorboard when the trooper initially spoke with the driver; (4) the black bag was found on the front passenger floorboard with a purse, food, and beer Glaze admitted were her personal belongings; (5) Glaze's appearance, including attire, were consistent with that of an intravenous methamphetamine user; and (6) Glaze appeared extremely nervous during the search of the vehicle but appeared unsurprised when she was advised that drugs had been found in the black bag on the front passenger floorboard amongst her personal belongings.

Opinion by: Cynthia L. Martin, Judge August 18, 2020

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