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Steve Marshall
Alabama Attorney General



For More Information, contact:

Mike Lewis (334) 353-2199

Joy Patterson (334) 242-7491

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AG Steve Marshall Announces Court of Criminal Appeals Upholds Capital Murder and Murder Convictions in Madison County

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Steve Marshall announced that the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals upheld convictions for capital murder and murder in two Madison County cases. The Court upheld the capital murder conviction of Richard Burgin. In another unrelated case, the Court upheld the murder conviction of Cary Trant Jefferson.

Burgin, 55, of Huntsville, was convicted in May 2017 for the murders of brothers Anthony Jackson and Terry Jackson. Evidence was presented at trial regarding the following events. On May 21, 2013, the Jackson brothers were involved in work for the weekly food bank at the West Huntsville United Methodist Church. Burgin knocked and was let into the church and while there, he stabbed Terry and Anthony Jackson multiple times. When the food bank coordinator found the brothers a short time later, Anthony already had died and Terry died soon after at the hospital. Because the offense was the murder of two or more persons committed by one course of conduct, Burgin was convicted of a capital offense. He was sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.

In the second case, Cary Trant Jefferson, 48, of Huntsville, was convicted in August 2017 for the murder of Doris Timmons. The two were living together and involved in a romantic relationship that was deteriorating. On the evening of April 27, 2015, Timmons had been out with her family. When she returned home, Jefferson was intoxicated and started yelling at her, telling her to leave the residence. Timmons told Jefferson that she would leave in the morning, went to a separate bedroom and got into bed. Jefferson later came to the room and shot her. Timmons was paralyzed from the chest down and lived in that condition for almost three months before dying from complications resulting from her injury. Jefferson was sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment for his murder conviction.

Both cases were prosecuted at trial by Madison County District Attorney Robert L. Broussard's office. Each defendant sought to have his convictions reversed on appeal.

The Attorney General's Criminal Appeals Division handled the cases during the appeal process, arguing for the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals to affirm the convictions. The Court did so in decisions issued on August 3. Attorney General Marshall commended Assistant Attorneys General Laura Irby Cuthbert and Thomas Leverette of the Attorney General's Criminal Appeals Division for their successful work in these cases.

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