

**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI**



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\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\*

Hinds County District Attorney Robert Shuler Smith announces today that a Jackson man, David Earl Bell [3340 Harley Street, Jackson, MS; DOB 6-10-1987] has been sentenced to twenty-two [22] years in the Mississippi Department of Corrections by Circuit Judge Breland Hilbun after pleading guilty to six [6] counts of armed robbery for the December 18, 2007, armed robberies of six individuals at Mug Shots, a Jackson restaurant and bar. Bell was sentenced on Monday, October 20, 2008, after pleading guilty in September. Smith said that had the case gone to trial, the State would have proved that Aguebor Godwin, a cook at Mug Shots, set up the robbery with Bell and a third defendant, Jimmie Redmond. Godwin was not present at the actual robberies, but sent Bell and Redmond a text message to go ahead with the robberies. Bell and Redmond entered the restaurant with pistols drawn and pointed at the manager and five [5] customers. Bell and Redmond threatened to kill the manager to force him to turn over cash of the restaurant and then took watches, wallets and other personal items from the five customers and then forced all of them into the cooler in the kitchen of the restaurant. Jackson Police officers responded quickly and caught all three defendants in a car in the parking lot of the restaurant before they could flee the scene. All items taken from the victims were recovered. Bell and Godwin confessed their roles in the robbery scheme. Godwin was previously sentenced to twenty-five [25] years in prison with ten [10] years suspended. Redmond has plead guilty to all counts and will be sentenced later. Bell and Godwin must serve the first ten [10] years of their sentences without possibility of parole or early release.

Stated Smith, "We made no plea offers in these cases, all three defendants plead guilty with no agreed sentences. I will continue to seek harsh sentences in cases like these where innocent victims were terrorized. I want people in Jackson to have confidence that there will be very serious consequences for criminals that use guns to rob people."