

**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI**



**Robert Shuler Smith  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

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**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
Seventh Circuit Court District  
Post Office Box 22747  
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DATE: December 9, 2008

RE: State of Mississippi v. Melvin Givens

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On February 18, 2008 Melvin Givens, along with two other men, walked into the Kentucky Fried Chicken located in Westland Plaza, right across from Provine High School, and pointed a shotgun at the employees and demanded they empty the registers.

Givens took the money from the registers and fled the scene with the two other men. He was apprehended a few days later by officers from the Jackson Police Department at the Rebelwoods apartments.

On December 8, 2008, Givens was set to go to trial before Circuit Judge W. Swan Yerger but chose to plea guilty right before a jury was impaneled. The Judge accepted the State's recommendation and Givens was sentenced to 25 years with 5 years suspended and 20 to serve in the custody of the Mississippi Department of Corrections.

District Attorney Robert Schuler Smith believes those that commit violent crimes should be given harsh sentences in order to send a message that says this community will not tolerate those types of crimes. He also believes that if you commit a crime near a school you will pay a hefty price.