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**HINDS COUNTY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
ROBERT SHULER SMITH, D.A.**

PRESS RELEASE

Marc Lewis convicted of murdering his mother

December 19, 2013

(JACKSON, MISS.) Hinds County District Attorney Robert Shuler Smith today announced Marc Lewis, age 23, has been sentenced to life for the murder of his mother, Sharmeise Church.

Sharmeise Church, age 38, was shot to death by Lewis on April 15, 2011, at the Jackson home they shared.

Lewis was sentenced by Hinds County Circuit Judge Jeff Weill. He was convicted by a Hinds County jury in Judge Weill's courtroom November 15, 2013.

Crucial to the prosecution was the eight-minute, 33-second 911 call made after Church was shot. In this recording Lewis can be heard repeatedly saying, "I ain't got no mama." Family members can also be heard protecting Church from him as she lay dying on the floor from a single gunshot wound to the stomach.

At the time of her death Church was a popular Mississippi College Dean's List student. *The Mississippi Collegian* remembered her in a front-page obituary. The college also held a candlelight vigil featuring readings of her class assignments and other writings.

"By all accounts, Sharmeise Church was an extremely well-liked person - and a loving mother," said Smith. "Her murder, at the hands of her own son, is one of those cases that haunt us long after the jury returns its verdict."

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