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

PRESS RELEASE

Stanley Cole pleads Guilty to Manslaughter and other charges in the death of JSU coed Latasha Norman

February 19, 2014

(JACKSON, MISS.) Hinds County District Attorney Robert Shuler Smith today announced Greenville native Stanley Dewayne Cole has pled guilty to Manslaughter, Armed Robbery, and Aggravated Stalking. These charges stem from the 2007 slaying of his former girlfriend, JSU coed Latasha Norman, also from Greenville.

In 2010 Cole was convicted of murdering Norman, age 20, by a Hinds County jury and sentenced to life in prison. An appeals court subsequently overturned this conviction, ruling Manslaughter should have been an option for jurors to consider.

Cole, age 32, was sentenced today by Hinds County Circuit Judge Jeff Weill to serve 20 years for Manslaughter (the maximum sentence for this offense), 15 years for Armed Robbery, and 5 years for Aggravated Stalking. These sentences will run consecutively, for a total of 40 years in the custody of the Mississippi Department of Corrections.

"The family of Latasha Norman has endured a long wait for justice in this case," said Smith. "Stanley Cole's guilty plea today spares them the anguish of another trial."

Smith noted the JSU Latasha Norman Center for Counseling and Psychological Services was established in her name.

"Also, the heartfelt grief demonstrated by Miss Norman's fellow students, her church, and many, many who knew her at the time of her death is a striking tribute to her memory. "

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