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

PRESS RELEASE

Hinds County Jury finds Defendant Marcello Coleman Guilty of First Degree Murder and Kidnapping

June 11, 2015

For Immediate Release

(Jackson, Miss) Hinds County District Attorney Robert Shuler Smith announced on June 11, 2015, that Marcellos Coleman, one of three co-defendants, was found guilty of First Degree Murder and Kidnapping. This jury verdict followed a four day trial for the beating, strangulation, and burning of victim Duan Penn.

The Hinds County Jury reached its verdict following the testimony of several officers of the Jackson Police Department, expert witnesses from the Mississippi Crime Laboratory, and witnesses from the Hinds County community.

On April 11, 2012, Jackson Fire Department was dispatched to a fire in a wooded area just off Methodist Home Road. Upon extinguishing the fire, a human body burned beyond recognition was discovered. The autopsy revealed the body was that of a male who died as a result of blunt force trauma, mechanical asphyxia, and strangulation. Dental records later identified the victim as Duan Penn. Subsequent investigation, over the course of several months led JPD investigators to the Huron Street area. The

execution of search warrants and extensive crime scene investigation produced physical evidence linking the burned body of Penn to the original crime scene. The JPD Homicide detectives were able to identify Marcellos Coleman as one of the perpetrators of the murder.

Hinds County District Attorney Robert Shuler Smith addressed the jury verdict stating:

“This verdict is another step toward our goal of removing violent offenders from the streets. Citizens of Hinds County, serving as jurors, play a very significant role in the justice system. As attorneys prosecuting on behalf of the State of Mississippi, we dedicate our time and efforts to accurately and effectively present the evidence of crimes committed by violent offenders to a jury of Hinds County residents. Through service as jurors, the residents of Hinds County have the power to stand with this office and demand that violent offenders be held accountable.”

Marcellos Coleman will be sentenced July 20, 2015, by Hinds County Circuit Court Judge Jeff Weill. Coleman is facing a potential sentence of Life for Murder and 30 years for Kidnapping.

In Additional co-defendant, Marcus Shelby, was previous convicted by a jury as a violent habitual offender and is currently serving a Life sentence.