

Contact:
Phone: (601) 968-6568
Fax: (601) 968-6655

Hinds Co. Courthouse
407 E. Pascagoula St.
P. O. Box 22747
Jackson, MS 39225-2747

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

PRESS RELEASE

Hinds County Habitual Offender Marcus Shelby-Sentenced to Life without Parole for Depraved Heart Murder.

May 26, 2015

For Immediate Release

(Jackson, Miss) Hinds County District Attorney Robert Shuler Smith announced today, May 26, 2015 that the Honorable Judge Jeff Weill sentenced Marcus Shelby to Life without Parole to the custody of the Mississippi Department of Correction for the charge of Depraved Heart Murder and as a Habitual Offender.

Shelby was found guilty of one count of Depraved Heart Murder for the beating, strangulation, and burning of murder victim 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 Marcus Shelby as one of the perpetrators of the murder.

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. Later the autopsy revealed that the body was that of a male who died as a result of blunt force trauma and strangulation. During the course of the investigation, dental records identified the victim as Duan Penn.

Hinds County District Attorney Robert Shuler Smith stated, "Marcus Shelby will spend the rest of his life in prison for this heartless and senseless crime". Smith further stated, "Those person who choose to commit crimes in Hinds County will severely be dealt with.