

NEWS RELEASE

Luther Strange

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AG ANNOUNCES THAT APPEALS COURT UPHOLDS CONVICTION OF JASON MURPHY

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Luther Strange announced today that the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals on Friday, December 9, 2011, upheld the felony murder conviction of Jason Murphy for the 2003 killing of Elmore County businessman Ronnie Holman during a brutal robbery and burglary. Murphy was found guilty by a jury in 2009 in Chilton County Circuit Court following a trial that lasted more than three weeks. Two previous trials had resulted in mistrials when the juries did not reach a verdict. The defendant’s brother Jared Murphy subsequently pleaded guilty to the murder also. The Murphy brothers also are from Elmore County.

On July 29, 2003, Holman was shot in the head with a high-powered assault rifle when he went out into his front yard to see why dogs were barking. During the burglary and robbery, masked intruders went into and vandalized the home, demanding money from Holman’s widow after they had killed him.

The Attorney General’s Office presented evidence at trial that included testimony from five individuals to whom Murphy had confessed while he was in jail. The confessions included information known only to the killer, which was corroborated by physical evidence from the crime scene.

The successful appeal was handled by Assistant Attorney General John Porter of the Attorney General’s Criminal Appeals Division. Those who worked on the prosecution include Assistant Attorneys General Bill Lisenby and Will Dill, and former Assistant Attorney General Pamela Casey, and special agents of the Attorney General’s Investigations Division, as well as the Elmore County Sheriff’s Office.

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