

## NEWS RELEASE

# Luther Strange

Alabama Attorney General



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **AG STRANGE, MORGAN COUNTY DA ANNOUNCE INDICTMENT FOR MULTIPLE SEX CRIMES AGAINST SEVERAL VICTIMS IN COLD CASE**

(MONTGOMERY)--Attorney General Luther Strange and Morgan County District Attorney Scott Anderson today announced charges that a man currently incarcerated in state prison had committed multiple sex crimes against several women between November 1985 and May 1986. David Leon Garth Jr., 44, formerly of Decatur, has been served notice of the indictment at the Donaldson Correctional Facility.

Evidence was presented to a Morgan County grand jury, resulting in Garth's indictment \* on August 3, 2012. Specifically, the indictment charges Garth with the following nine counts involving six victims:

- first-degree rape of one victim;
- first-degree burglary, while armed with a knife and with intent to rape, of a second victim;
- first-degree burglary, while armed with a knife and with intent to rape, of a third victim;
- first-degree rape of the same third victim;
- first degree rape of a fourth victim;
- first-degree burglary, while armed with a knife and with intent to rape, of a fifth victim;
- first-degree burglary, while armed with a knife and with intent to rape, of a sixth victim;
- first-degree rape of the same sixth victim; and
- first-degree robbery, while armed with a knife, of the same sixth victim.

No further information about the investigation or about Garth's alleged crimes other than that stated in the indictment may be released at this time. His current incarceration is for convictions of first-degree burglary in Morgan County, and were prosecuted by the Morgan County District Attorney's Office. If convicted, Garth faces a maximum penalty of life imprisonment for each of the nine counts, which are all class A felonies.

The case was investigated by the Attorney General's Cold Case Unit and is being prosecuted by the Morgan County District Attorney's Office. Attorney General Strange and District Attorney Anderson thanked the Decatur Police Department for valuable assistance. The Attorney General's Cold Case Unit is a project conducted in partnership with the Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences, to investigate violent crimes that previously had been closed due to lack of investigative leads. This program is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice.

*\*An indictment is merely an accusation. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.*

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