

NEWS RELEASE

Luther Strange

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AG ANNOUNCES THAT COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS UPHOLDS MONTGOMERY COUNTY MURDER CONVICTION

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Luther Strange announced that the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals on Friday upheld the felony murder conviction of a Montgomery man. Fredrick Ford, 23, was convicted by a jury in Montgomery County Circuit Court in March of 2010 for the murder of Bernard Mitchell.

Evidence presented at trial stated that a little after 2 a.m. on New Year's morning, 2008, Ford and his accomplice, Corey Johnson, waited in the parking lot outside of The Rose Supper Club in Montgomery. According to the Court record, when Mitchell left The Rose and walked across the parking lot to his car, Ford and Johnson attacked him. Mitchell was shot twice, and the robbers removed his chain necklace, removed the contents of his pockets, and ran away. Mitchell died from the gunshot wounds.

The case was prosecuted at trial by Montgomery County District Attorney Ellen Brooks' Office. Ford was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment, and subsequently sought to have his conviction reversed on appeal.

The Attorney General's Appeals Division handled the case during the appeals process, arguing for the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals to affirm the conviction. The Court did so in a decision issued on Friday, May 13. The felony murder conviction for Ford's accomplice, Corey Johnson, earlier was upheld by the Court of Criminal Appeals in a decision issued on March 11, 2011. Attorney General Strange commended Assistant Attorneys General Tracy Daniel and James Rutter of the Attorney General's Appeals Division for their successful work in these cases.

**For additional information regarding this case, a copy is attached of the memorandum opinion of the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals.*

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