

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Luther Strange announced that the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals last Thursday upheld the murder conviction of Jameson Dartelle Staten. Staten, 20, of Decatur, was convicted in Morgan County Circuit Court in April of 2014 for the murder of Houston Blackwood.

Evidence presented at trial showed the following: On June 2, 2012, Houston Blackwood was shot and killed in the stairwell of his apartment complex in Decatur. Testimony indicated that Staten and two other men, Steven King and Lorin Wilson, were together that evening and participated in the killing of Blackwood. The victim was shot several times and died from his wounds. King and Wilson both pleaded guilty to the murder.

The Staten case was prosecuted at trial by Morgan County District Attorney Scott Anderson's office. Staten was sentenced to 30 years imprisonment and subsequently sought to have his conviction reversed on appeal.

The Attorney General's Criminal Criminal 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 Thursday, July 2.

Attorney General Strange commended Assistant Attorney General Marc Starrett of the Attorney General's Criminal Appeals Division for his successful work in this case.

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