

NEWS RELEASE

Luther Strange

Alabama Attorney General



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 15, 2016

For More Information, contact:

Mike Lewis (334) 353-2199

Joy Patterson (334) 242-7491

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AG ANNOUNCES THAT COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS UPHOLDS BUTLER COUNTY MURDER AND RAPE CONVICTIONS

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Luther Strange announced that the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals on Friday upheld the murder and first-degree rape convictions of Shawn McClain. McClain, 31, of Georgiana, was convicted in the Butler County Circuit Court in August of 2015 for the rape and murder of Dorothy Leatherwood.

The record at the trial indicated that in 2012, McClain earned money by performing a variety of odd jobs and yard work for his neighbor, Dorothy Leatherwood. On November 12, 2012, while at Leatherwood's home to collect payment for yard work that he had performed earlier that day, McClain raped her and stabbed her in the neck.

The case was prosecuted at trial by Butler County District Attorney Charlotte Tesmer. McClain pleaded guilty and was sentenced to life imprisonment for each conviction. He subsequently sought to have his guilty plea convictions reversed on appeal.

The Attorney General's Criminal Appeals Section handled the case during the appeals process, arguing for the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals to affirm the convictions. The Court did so in a decision issued on Friday, March 11.

Attorney General Strange commended Assistant Attorney General Kristi Wilkerson of the Attorney General's Criminal Appeals Section for her successful work in this case.

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