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## **Attorney General Steve Marshall Announces Court of Criminal Appeals Upholds Coffee County Murder Conviction**

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Steve Marshall announced that on Friday the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals affirmed the murder conviction of Malcom Hunter. Hunter, 31, of Enterprise, was convicted in Coffee County Circuit Court in May 2018 for the murder of Ayanna Nneka Smith.

On January 21, 2017, Ayanna Smith disappeared from her home in Enterprise. She was last seen in the company of her boyfriend, Hunter. Witnesses heard a gunshot in the parking lot of the apartments, and Ayanna Smith was never seen again. One associate of Hunter’s -- Alec Musso -- testified at Hunter’s trial that Hunter came to Musso’s house on the date of Ayana Smith’s disappearance with what appeared to be the lifeless body of a woman in his car. Another associate of Hunter’s -- Frank Miller -- testified that Hunter came to his house on the day of Ayana Smith’s disappearance and asked Miller to dispose of a handgun.

Coffee County District Attorney Tom Anderson’s office prosecuted this case and obtained a guilty verdict. Hunter was sentenced as a habitual offender to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.

The Attorney General's 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 Friday, June 28. Though Smith’s body was never found, the Court of Criminal Appeals stated that that the extensive circumstantial evidence presented at trial “was sufficient to support the jury’s verdict that Hunter murdered Smith . . . ”

Attorney General Marshall commended Assistant Attorney General Stephen Dodd for his successful work on this case.

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