



ATTORNEY GENERAL STEVE MARSHALL ANNOUNCES ALABAMA SUPREME COURT DENIES APPEAL OF COVINGTON COUNTY CAPITAL MURDER CONVICTIONS AND SENTENCE OF DEATH

(MONTGOMERY) - Attorney General Steve Marshall announced the Alabama Supreme Court has denied a petition for writ of certiorari seeking to appeal the capital murder convictions and sentence of death of Oscar Doster. Doster, 43, of Andalusia, was convicted in Covington County Circuit Court in 2006 for three counts of capital murder relating to the death of Paul LeMaster.

Evidence presented at trial established that on November 4, 2002, four inmates escaped from the Covington County jail, including Doster and his co-defendant, Bobby O'Lee Phillips. The two went on a crime spree, and two days later stole guns and ammunition from an unoccupied trailer in the area. Doster and Phillips then went to a nearby trailer and Phillips shot and killed the owner of the trailer, Paul LeMaster, in the back while LeMaster was in his trailer cooking dinner. Doster and Phillips then entered LeMaster's trailer and stole money and the keys to LeMaster's truck. The two travelled to Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas, where they committed a string of burglaries. On November 18, 2002, Texas State Troopers arrested Doster and Phillips near Sorora, Texas bringing an end to their two-week crime spree.

The Covington County District Attorney's office prosecuted the case. A Covington County jury convicted Doster of three counts of capital murder. The trial judge sentenced Doster to death. Doster's subsequent attempts to have his convictions and sentence reversed on appeal have been rejected by the courts. The Attorney General's Capital Litigation Division handled Doster's case during the appeals process, including Doster's present petition to overturn his convictions and sentence. The Alabama Supreme Court denied that request in a decision issued Friday, June 15.

Phillips was also convicted of capital murder for killing LeMaster, and was sentenced to death.



Attorney General Marshall commended Deputy Attorney General Thomas Govan of the Attorney General's Capital Litigation Section for his successful work in this case.

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