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AG Steve Marshall Announces Court of Criminal Appeals Upholds Shelby County Murder Conviction

(MONTGOMERY) - Attorney General Steve Marshall announced the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals has upheld the murder conviction of Eric Matthew Blackerby. Blackerby, 19, was convicted in Shelby County Circuit Court in August 2017 for the murder of William Neff.

Evidence presented at trial showed that Eric Blackerby killed Neff in the aftermath of a fight between Eric's brother and Neff over a young woman they had both dated. The fight occurred around midnight on July 29, 2015, at a dirt area in the woods in western Shelby County on the banks of the Cahaba River, known locally as the "Slab." After the fight had finished and Neff was getting back up, Eric Blackerby came behind him and struck him in the head with an aluminum baseball bat. An autopsy determined that Neff died of multiple "blunt force trauma to the skull which caused brain damage and ultimately [Neff's] demise."

Shelby County District Attorney Jill Lee's Office prosecuted the case. Upon conviction, the trial court sentenced Eric Blackerby to life in prison. Blackerby appealed his conviction, and on Friday, August 24, the Court of Criminal Appeals affirmed his conviction.

Attorney General Marshall commended Assistant Attorney General Jack Willis of the Attorney General's Criminal Appeals Division for his successful work in this case.

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