

Steve Marshall
Alabama Attorney General



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

(MONTGOMERY) Attorney General Steve Marshall announced that the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals on Friday upheld the capital murder conviction and life without parole sentence of Damon Lake.

Lake, 25, was convicted in Sumter County Circuit Court in May 2017 for the murder of Terrell Brown on April 6, 2013. During an attempted robbery, Lake beat Brown to death with a metal pipe. Lake, who was 19 when he murdered Brown, claimed that he had diminished capacity as though he were under the age of 18, and therefore, should have been in the same protected class as juveniles covered by the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Miller v. Alabama*, which prohibits mandatory sentences of life without parole for defendants under 18. The Court of Criminal Appeals found that because Lake was 19 when he murdered Brown, the *Miller* decision was inapplicable to his case, and therefore, his sentence was not cruel and unusual.

The office of Sumter County District Attorney Greg Griggers prosecuted the case in circuit court. The Attorney General's Criminal Appeals Division defended the conviction on appeal urging the Court of Criminal Appeals to affirm the conviction.

Attorney General Marshall commended Assistant Attorney General Madeline Lewis for her successful work in this case.

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