

Pierce County

Office of the Prosecuting Attorney

930 Tacoma Avenue South, Room 946
Tacoma, Washington 98402-2171
Administration: (253) 798-7792
FAX: (253) 798-6636

MARK LINDQUIST
Prosecuting Attorney

Main Office: (253) 798-7400
1-800-992-2456
Valid only within Washington State

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JUDGE CONVICTS A THIRD DEFENDANT IN CRAIGSLIST HOMICIDE

Today Pierce County Judge Rosanne Buckner returned six guilty verdicts against Joshua Reese who was charged in the home invasion robbery and murder of James Sanders, which occurred on April 28, 2010 in Edgewood, Washington.

Judge Buckner also found that the defendant acted with deliberate cruelty and a high degree of planning. These findings allow the judge to sentence the defendant beyond the standard range of 59-71 years. Reese waived his right to a jury trial.

“This crime was devastating to the Sanders family and touched our entire community,” Prosecutor Mark Lindquist said. “Chief Criminal Deputy Mary Robnett and Deputy Prosecutor Karen Watson, who tried this case as well as the cases against two other co-defendants, did a professional job on this emotionally challenging case.”

Reese was part of a group that entered the Sanders’ home under the pretext of buying a ring that Mr. Sanders had offered for sale on Craigslist. Once inside, the assailants bound, beat, and robbed the Sanders family before murdering Mr. Sanders. Pierce County Sheriff’s Detective John Jimenez interviewed Reese as part of the investigation and Reese admitted his involvement in the crime.

Judge Buckner set sentencing on June 28th at 9:00 a.m. in the County-City Building in Tacoma. Reese’s co-defendants, Kiyoshi Higashi and Amanda Knight were tried and convicted earlier this year. Higashi was sentenced to 124 years in prison. Knight was sentenced to 71 years in prison.

The fourth co-defendant, Clabon Berniard, is set for a separate trial later this year. Charges are only allegations and a person is presumed innocent unless he is proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

For additional information please contact:

Becky Stover, at 253-798-4910 or rstover@co.pierce.wa.us
Kelly Kelstrup at 253-798-7792 or kkelstr@co.pierce.wa.us