



Pierce County

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JURY CONVICTS HIGASHI OF ALL COUNTS, INCLUDING MURDER

Today a Pierce County jury returned six guilty verdicts against Kiyoshi Alan Higashi who was charged in the murder and robbery of James Sanders which occurred on April 28, 2010 in Edgewood, Washington.

Jurors also found that the defendant “demonstrated an egregious lack of remorse,” and the defendant’s conduct “manifested deliberate cruelty to the victim.” These findings allow the judge to sentence the defendant beyond the standard range of 59-71 years.

“I appreciate the jurors’ service and verdicts. 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 the case, did a professional job on this emotionally challenging case.”

Higashi 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.

Judge Buckner set sentencing on March 11, 2011, at 1:30, Department 6, in the County-City Building in Tacoma. Higashi’s co-defendants, Joshua Reese, Amanda Knight and Clabon Berniard, are set for separate trials later this year.

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