



ON THE RECORD

NEWS from Pierce County Prosecuting Attorney Mark Lindquist

On The Record
June/July
2011

Allen Sentenced to 420 Years for Murder of Lakewood Officers



DPA Stephen Penner looks to victims' family members during the sentencing.

On June 17, Judge Frederick Fleming sentenced Dorcus Allen to 420 years in prison for his involvement in the murders of Lakewood Police officers by Maurice Clemmons on November 29, 2009. A jury convicted Allen of four counts of Murder in the First Degree for the shooting deaths of Sgt. Mark Renninger and Officers Tina Griswold, Ronald Owens and Gregory Richards.

Allen was the getaway driver for Clemmons, who entered a Forza Coffee shop in Parkland and ambushed the officers, who were in full uniform and had gathered to have breakfast while they wrote reports. Clemmons fled the scene in a vehicle driven by Allen and was later shot by a Seattle Police officer after a two-day manhunt.

The sentencing of Allen brings to a close the prosecution of seven defendants who aided Clemmons. "This has been a long march to justice," **Prosecutor Mark Lindquist** said, "Deputy Prosecutors **Phil Sorensen, Stephen Penner** and **Kevin McCann** and support staff **Michelle Prichard** and **Wayne Smith** did extraordinary work on the Clemmons cases. I hope the justice we've achieved brings some closure for the family of the officers, law enforcement and the community."

Hilltop Crip Gang Members Charged in Burglary Ring

In June, Prosecutor Lindquist charged 26 Hilltop Crip gang members and associates with burglary and related charges for a rash of crimes committed from September 2008 through May 2010. One defendant is charged with leading organized crime.

Led by gang expert Detective **John Ringer**, Tacoma Police detectives investigated the crimes. Gang Unit Lead Deputy Prosecutor **Greg Greer** coordinated the prosecution. Much of the information about the burglaries was provided by Hilltop Crip members during the investigation of violent crimes after the first crackdown on gang members in February 2010.

Each defendant is either a member of the Hilltop Crips or an associate of the gang. August trial dates are scheduled for 14 defendants. Bench warrants were issued for eight defendants and four will be transported from prison.



Det. John Ringer talks about gang culture during a recent training for prosecutors.

Tillicum Park Gangsters

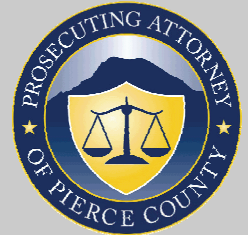


Gang Unit Deputy Prosecutor Jared Ausserer

In May, Prosecutor Lindquist charged 11 people, alleged members or associates of the Tillicum Park Gangsters (TPG), in gang-related crimes that occurred from October 2010 through May 12, 2011. TPG is a well known street gang associated with the Tillicum neighborhood of Lakewood. More than a dozen TPG members have been sent to prison in the last five years, most for violent crimes including murder and drive-by shootings.

All of the defendants are charged with Unlawful Delivery of a Controlled Substance and two are also charged with Robbery in the First Degree. Gang Unit Deputy Prosecutor **Jared Ausserer** and Drug Unit Deputy Prosecutor **James Curtis** have teamed up to prosecute the cases.

The Lakewood Police Department and South Sound Gang Task Force investigated these cases. Lakewood Police Chief **Bret Farrar** said, "The investigation was effective and well managed because of a dedicated Gang Unit in the Prosecutor's Office that worked closely with law enforcement."



In This Issue...

Allen Sentenced to 420 Years

Hilltop Crip Gang Members Charged in Burglary Ring

Tillicum Park Gangsters

Jackson Sentenced to 47 Years for Triple Shooting

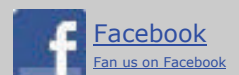
Roy Stable Owner Convicted of Animal Cruelty

Auburn Woman Gets 25 Years for Fatal Car Crash

Community Involvement

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

[Prosecutor's Office Website](#)



Jackson Sentenced to 47 Years for Triple Shooting



Deputy Prosecutor Tom Howe confers with Victim Advocate Anneliese Cole

On June 24, self proclaimed "Hoover Crip" gang member Jerell Jackson, 20, was sentenced to more than 47 years in prison for a triple shooting in May 2009 that injured three young men. A jury convicted Jackson of three counts of Assault in the First Degree.

Jackson and co-defendants Reginald Lester and Dedrick April were driving in South Tacoma around midnight when they spotted the victims walking down the street. April knew one of the victims and had a prior disagreement with him. They pulled over and Jackson approached the victims, engaging in conversation. Jackson then opened fire, wounding all three men. The victims were transported to a local trauma center with gunshot wounds to the chest, abdomen and leg.

Tom Howe, Deputy Prosecutor in the Robbery/Assault Unit, prosecuted Jackson, who has several prior felony convictions. Victim Advocate **Anneliese Cole** played a key role in effectively coordinating and communicating with the numerous victims and witnesses who testified during the trial. Lester pleaded guilty to Rendering Criminal Assistance in the Second Degree and served nine months in jail. April is scheduled for trial on July 21.

Roy Stable Owner Convicted of Animal Cruelty

Deputy Prosecutor **Susan Mason** and Legal Intern **Scott Harlass** successfully prosecuted Darlene Wilson of three counts of Animal Cruelty in the Second Degree for the neglect and mistreatment of several horses at her stable in Roy.

In March 2010, Pierce County Animal Control responded to the defendant's residence after receiving complaints about the welfare of her 37 horses. The agency had been working with the 67-year-old Wilson since 2008 to improve conditions for the equines. People had offered to help feed and care for the horses, but Wilson refused. Ultimately three of the horses, all covered in urine and feces and in poor health, were seized by Animal Control.

Given the complexity of the case and the volume of information involved, Mason asked for assistance, which came in the form of Harlass, a law student and legal intern in the office. During the trial, Mason presented 11 witnesses against Wilson, who had five witnesses testify on her behalf. A jury deliberated for less than 30 minutes before finding the defendant guilty. Wilson was sentenced to suspended jail time and prohibited from owning horses for two years.



Deputy Prosecutor Susan Mason and Legal Intern Scott Harlass.

Auburn Woman Gets 25 Years for Fatal Car Crash



Victim Douglas Simmons, III

VIRGINIA RAMSEY, 37, was sentenced to almost 25 years in prison for Murder in the Second Degree, Vehicular Assault and Attempting to Elude a Pursuing Police Vehicle for the July 26, 2010 car crash that killed Douglas Simmons, III, and critically injured his girlfriend, Holly Mattson.

Ramsey was drunk and high when she led police officers on a high speed chase that started in Federal Way and ended at Pacific Highway South in Fife. She was swerving in the roadway and nearly hit two other cars before running a red light and crashing into the victims' car. Simmons was trapped inside the crumpled vehicle and pronounced dead at the scene. Mattson was transported to Madigan Army Medical Center with fractured vertebrae, broken ribs, a punctured lung and other injuries.

After the accident, officers searched Ramsey's vehicle and found various narcotic drugs and drug paraphernalia. Ramsey has multiple prior convictions, including five for felony drug offenses. DPA **Tim Jones**, who leads the Vehicular Homicide and Vehicular Assault Unit, prosecuted Ramsey.

PA CASE FILES

ANDREW HOUSTON III, 25, pleaded guilty to Murder in the Second Degree and received an exceptional sentence of more than 23 years in prison. Houston violently shook his two-year-old daughter after she refused to eat. She suffered fatal internal injuries. DPA **Lori Koiman** prosecuted Houston.

MONTEECE LLOYD, 21, was found guilty of two counts of Perjury in the First Degree. A jury found that Lloyd lied under oath during two trials for defendants charged for their involvement in a drive-by shooting. DPA **Jared Ausserer** prosecuted Lloyd.

NICHOLAS RICKMAN, 28, was found guilty of Assault in the First Degree for stabbing 23-year-old Jake Diaz. An argument escalated to a physical altercation during which Rickman pulled out a knife and stabbed Diaz four times, once through the lung and into his heart. DPA **Kawyne Lund** prosecuted Rickman, who faces up to 12 years.

Community Involvement



Deputy Prosecutor **Sabrina Ahrens** led "Team Amelia" in the March of Dimes Walk for Babies on April 30. Ahrens serves on the board of directors for the organization. Her daughter Amelia was diagnosed with a rare, but treatable disorder shortly after birth. Victim Advocates **Stacia Adams** and **Anneliese Cole** joined Ahrens in the walk. Team Amelia raised more than \$2,000. Pictured at left are Sabrina, husband Mike, daughter Amelia and son Xavier.

On June 17, the Crystal Judson Family Justice Center celebrated its fifth anniversary with a fundraiser barbeque.



Several community leaders were on hand, including Congressman **Dave Reichert**, pictured at right with FJC Director **Susan Adams** and **Prosecutor Lindquist**.



El Cid Diversion Counselor **Tanya Murdock Lewis** is a board member and volunteer for the non-profit organization P.T.S.D., Permission to Start Dreaming, which helps soldiers afflicted with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and traumatic brain injuries. P.T.S.D. is sponsoring the 1st Annual Race for a Soldier Half Marathon in Gig Harbor on October 16. The race will raise money for four local charities that help soldiers rebuild their lives and be healthy and successful post wartime. For more information go to www.raceforasoldier.org.

Legal Assistant **Therese Nicholson-Kahn** volunteered at the Tacoma Highland Games on June 25. Nicholson-Kahn's Scottish parents helped initiate the games 40 years ago. Her daughter and niece both took home trophies for their winning performances. Pictured at right are Therese Kahn, Audrey Curran, Carrie Dolan, Leanore Curran and Therese's daughter Marnie.



Chief Civil Deputy **Doug Vanscoy**, pictured at left, reached the 11 gallon mark as a blood donor at Cascade Regional Blood Services in May. Vanscoy once had an opposing attorney say he was surprised they could get any blood out of him.

In June, more than two dozen deputy prosecutors attended training at the annual Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (WAPA) conference. Deputy prosecutors **Steve Penner**, **Tim Lewis**, **Craig Adams** and **Dan Hamilton**, as well as **Prosecutor Lindquist**, were speakers at the conference. The three-day event provides needed continuing education for attorneys. An evening barbeque is a long-standing tradition that gives employees a chance to enjoy each other's company.



Speaking Engagements

Mark Lindquist enjoys attending and speaking at community events. If you would like to invite Mark or a representative from the Prosecuting Attorney's Office to speak to your group, please [contact us](#).

PA CASE FILES

EMANUEL FINCH, 59, was convicted as charged of nine counts of first degree rape and child molestation for repeated sexual assaults on two young girls. DPA **Angelica McGaha** successfully argued for an exceptional sentence of 50 years in prison for Finch.

JESSE MILLER, 29, was sentenced to 12 years after pleading guilty to eight counts related to a string of burglaries committed throughout the Puget Sound region. The Puyallup Police and Auto Crimes Enforcement Task Force detectives investigated the cases. DPA **Karen Benson** prosecuted Miller.

CHRISTOPHER SAUNDERS, 37, was sentenced to almost five years in prison after a jury found him guilty of Failure to Register as a Sex Offender. Saunders was convicted of Second Degree Child Rape in 1993. This was his sixth conviction for failure to register as a sex offender. DPA **Jessica Giner** prosecuted Saunders.