



**Office of Genesee County Prosecutor
David Leyton**

**PRESS RELEASE
EMBARGOED UNTIL 2:00PM, JULY 21st**

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**PROSECUTOR LEYTON FILES MOTIONS TO PRESERVE LIFE SENTENCES
FOR JUVENILES CONVICTED OF MURDER**

Flint -- In the wake of two U.S. Supreme Court rulings, *Miller v. Alabama* (2012) and *Montgomery v. Louisiana* (2016), Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton has filed motions in the 7th Circuit Court to preserve life without parole sentences of nearly two dozen individuals who were convicted as juveniles of first degree murder in Genesee County.

Genesee County has 27 cases affected by the Supreme Court rulings which held that mandatory life without parole sentences for juveniles are unconstitutional. Of these 27 cases, Prosecutor Leyton is seeking to preserve life without parole sentences for 23 individuals.

In the remaining four cases, Prosecutor Leyton is seeking a term of years sentence which, by statute, can be 25-40 years on the minimum up to 60 years on the maximum.

All five Circuit Court judges have cases that are set for resentencing.

Prosecutor Leyton noted that four of the convicted offenders were 15 years of age at the time they committed murder, seven were 16 years old, and sixteen offenders were 17 years old. The oldest offender is currently 58 years old and the youngest is 27.

"I want to reiterate that each of these individuals were duly convicted of first degree murder," said Prosecutor Leyton. "The issue now is the proper sentencing in light of the Supreme Court rulings and we have carefully reviewed the underlying facts of each case in making our decision," he said.

Prosecutor Leyton said four of the underlying cases included single victims who were under the age of 16 when they were killed. Two other cases involved triple homicides including one where two victims were children. Another case involved six murder victims. Five victims were senior citizens and one case involved a police officer who was killed in the line of duty.

“We have made every attempt to contact the victims’ families in each of these cases,” said Prosecutor Leyton. “Some of our attempts resulted in returned letters and other cases lead to disconnected phone lines or we discovered that family members were now deceased,” he said.

Prosecutor Leyton said that anyone who may be a surviving family member who has not been contacted to please contact the Genesee County Prosecutor’s Office at (810)257-3210 or email Prosecutor Leyton directly at dleyton@co.genesee.mi.us. Please reference “juvenile lifer cases” and leave your telephone number or mailing or email addresses at which you may be reached.

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