



Office of Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton

PRESS RELEASE

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MARK JONES SENTENCED TO 40-60 YEARS IN PRISON FOR THE MURDER OF 73-YEAR-OLD FLINT WOMAN

FLINT -- Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton announced that a Flint teen was sentenced this morning for the 2010 fatal shooting and robbery of a 73-year-old Flint woman.

Mark Anthony Jones, Jr., 18 (d.o.b. 4-19-1996), was convicted in 2013 of shooting and killing Merlyne Wray during a robbery at her home on Leland Street on November 16, 2010 when Jones was just 14-years-old. At the time of charging, Jones faced life in prison without the possibility of parole. A U.S. Supreme Court ruling in 2012, however, struck down mandatory life without parole sentences for juveniles.

As a result of the Supreme Court ruling in 2012, a sentencing hearing was held for Jones in Genesee County Circuit Court in March of this year and, based on evidence provided at the hearing, the Court made its ruling this morning.

Jones is sentenced to a minimum of 40 years and a maximum of 60 years in prison for Wray's murder and various other terms of years for armed robbery, carjacking, illegal entry, and carrying a concealed weapon. Each of those sentences will run concurrent with one another. Jones was also convicted of felony firearm and was sentenced to two years in prison for that crime to run consecutive to the other sentences.

"Mark Jones walked into the home of Merlyne Wray, killed her in cold blood with a single gunshot to her back, stole her wallet, car, and other items and left her body in a reclining chair where she was found by her son-in-law the next day," he said.

"Our position is that, taken in its entirety, with the facts of this case and Mark Jones' background, a life sentence without parole would have been appropriate in the interests of justice and public safety," he said.

Less than a month prior to Wray's murder, Jones had plead no contest to the breaking into the apartment of an 80-year-old Burton man. In addition to that case and Wray's murder, Jones had been arrested six other times for crimes ranging from larceny to criminal trespass.

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