



ROD PACHECO
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

OFFICE OF
THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Feb. 4, 2010

CONTACT: John Hall, PIO
(951) 955-8662

NEWS RELEASE

RIVERSIDE MAN CONVICTED OF 2007 MURDER OF WOMAN

RIVERSIDE – A Riverside County jury today, Feb. 4, 2010, convicted a Riverside man of first-degree murder for the shooting of a woman in 2007.

Steven David Thompson, DOB: 7-4-61, was found guilty of the May 27, 2007, murder of Lisa Ward as well as being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm. Jurors reached verdicts after about a day of deliberations.

Judge Christian F. Thierbach set Thompson's sentencing for March 19, 2010, in Dept. 43 at the Hall of Justice in Riverside. Thompson faces a maximum sentence of 75 years to life in prison.

The victim and two other people had been out looking to buy drugs when the murder happened. Many of the witnesses who testified during the trial are drug addicts and one witness was brought to court to testify while in federal custody.

"This was a very difficult case involving witnesses with various criminal backgrounds," said Riverside County District Attorney Rod Pacheco. "It required tremendous skill by our prosecutor to keep jurors focused on the fact that this victim was murdered."

The murder happened in the street across from where Thompson had been staying. Thompson, who believed the victim had somehow caused him to be stabbed previously, shot the woman once in the upper body.

The case, RIF147869, was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney David Tahan.

"I am pleased with the verdict and that the victim's family has hopefully received some closure," Tahan said. "Her parents can now know that the man who killed their daughter will never hurt anyone else."

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4075 Main Street - Riverside CA, 92501
www.RivCoDA.org