



# CRIMINAL CASE UPDATE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **MENIFEE MAN RECEIVES DEATH PENALTY IN MURDER OF 18-YEAR-OLD GIRL**

RIVERSIDE – A Riverside County Superior Court judge today, April 23, 2010, ordered that a Menifee man be put to death for the torture and murder of an 18-year-old girl nearly eight years ago.

Jeffrey Jay Buettner, DOB: 8-30-75, was convicted in December 2009 of the first-degree murder of Stephanie Ann Benton. The jury also found true special circumstances of murder of a witness and lying in wait. The same jury later recommended that Buettner be sentenced to death.

Today, Judge Christian F. Thierbach formally sentenced Buettner to death.

A second man, Glen Joseph Jones, DOB: 3-16-83, of Wildomar, was also convicted of Stephanie's murder. His jury found true the special circumstances of murder of a witness and murder committed during a robbery. That same jury recommended Jones be put to death. Sentencing for Jones is scheduled for June 11 in Dept. 43 at the Hall of Justice in Riverside.

Stephanie disappeared in late May 2002. Then on June 10, 2002, her badly decomposed body was found in a 55-gallon drum in an open field near Nichols Road and Collier Avenue in Lake Elsinore. A leather belt was around her neck and her head was completely wrapped in duct tape.

Buettner and Jones murdered Stephanie about two weeks earlier because they believed she had been talking to law enforcement officers about crimes the two men had been committing. Benton was beaten and strangled by her killers who left her body in the trunk of her own car for several days before they moved it to the drum.

The case, RIF104023, was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney John Aki.