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Guilty Verdict in Cohoes Home Invasion Trial

Deceased 86 Year Old Victim Receives Justice



ALBANY, NY – District Attorney P. David Soares today announced that JAMES LAWRENCE, 28, of Cohoes, was found guilty after a jury trial of (2) Counts of Burglary in the First Degree, both Class B Violent Felonies, (1) Count of Robbery in the First Degree, a Class B Felony, and (2) Counts of Count of Robbery in the Second Degree, both Class C Violent Felonies this afternoon before Judge Peter A. Lynch in Albany County Court.

On June 14, 2012, LAWRENCE, along with co-defendants, did unlawfully enter the residence of an 86 year old Fred Freije in the City of Cohoes. LAWRENCE did cause serious physical injury to the victim while stealing property consisting of currency and other personal belongings.

Mr. Freije passed away from unrelated matters and was not able to testify at any court proceedings involving this incident.

LAWRENCE faces up to 25 years in State Prison when sentenced on May 16, 2013.

“I am very pleased with the result of this case and I hope this conviction will give Mr. Freije’s family some piece of mind. Mr. Freije was a pillar in his community. He was a business man who contributed to the betterment of Cohoes. The actions of these defendants destroyed the peaceful life Mr. Freije had worked so hard to create. He had earned a life of tranquility but was ultimately visited by violence. Hopefully Mr. Lawrence will have many long years to consider his actions,” commented District Attorney Soares.

Assistant District Attorney Benjamin Mastaitis of the Major Offenses Unit Bureau prosecuted this case.

For more information, please contact Cecilia Logue at (518) 275-4710.

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