

## NEWS RELEASE

# Luther Strange

Alabama Attorney General



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### AG ANNOUNCES COURT UPHOLDS JEFFERSON MURDER CONVICTION

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Luther Strange announced that the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals on Friday upheld the murder conviction of a Birmingham man. Rodriquez Maurice Williams, 24, was convicted by a jury in Jefferson County Circuit Court in January of 2010 for the murder of Jamie Hedgeman.

Evidence presented at trial stated that Williams was with four other people on the porch of an apartment in Kimbrough Homes, also known as the Wenonah Projects. Williams was heard saying he was going to “get” the victim, Hedgeman. When Hedgeman walked near the group, words were exchanged, and sometime after Hedgeman reached the corner of the building, Williams and another man, Cortez Towns, were seen shooting in Hedgeman’s direction. Afterward Williams and Towns drove away in a brown Cadillac. Hedgeman reached his mother’s apartment where he told her his attackers were in a brown Cadillac. Hedgeman died of the excessive bleeding caused by the gunshot wound he suffered during the attack.

The case was prosecuted at trial by Jefferson County District Attorney Brandon Falls’ Office. Williams was convicted and sentenced to 30 years of imprisonment, and subsequently sought to have his conviction reversed on appeal.

The Attorney General’s Criminal Appeals Division handled the case during the appeals process, arguing for the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals to affirm the conviction. The Court did so in a decision issued on Friday, May 20. Cortez Towns also was convicted for the murder of Hedgeman, and Towns’ conviction previously was upheld by the Court of Criminal Appeals in a decision issued on September 17, 2010.

Attorney General Strange commended Assistant Attorneys General Michael Dean and James Prude of the Attorney General’s Criminal Appeals Division for their successful work in these cases.

*\*For additional information regarding this case, a copy is attached of the memorandum opinion of the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals.*

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