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## **AG MARSHALL ANNOUNCES COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS UPHOLDS JEFFERSON COUNTY CAPITAL MURDER CONVICTION**

(MONTGOMERY) - Attorney General Steve Marshall announced the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals has upheld the capital murder conviction of Jeffery Tyrone Riggs. Riggs, 48, of Birmingham, was convicted in Jefferson County Circuit Court in February of 2015 for the murder of Norber Payne, a woman with whom he had previously lived.

Evidence presented at trial showed that Riggs and Payne had previously lived together at Payne's apartment in a dating relationship, which Payne ended. In the early morning hours of January 10, 2008, Riggs kicked in the back door of Payne's residence, went into Payne's bedroom, shot her, and left the apartment the same way he entered. A co-worker of Riggs testified that the morning of the murder, Riggs left several messages on her voicemail saying that he was in trouble, had hurt someone, and expressed fear that he might go to jail.

The case was prosecuted at trial by the Jefferson County District Attorney's office. Riggs was sentenced to serve a term of life imprisonment without the possibility of parole and he subsequently sought to have his conviction reversed on appeal. The Attorney General's Criminal Appeals Division handled Riggs's 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 Friday, April 20.

Attorney General Marshall commended Assistant Attorney General Michael Nunnelley of the Attorney General's Criminal Appeals Division for his successful work in this case.

