



Genesee County Prosecutor's Office David Leyton, Prosecutor



Detroit Man Convicted of Open Murder in Beating Death

July 20, 2006

FLINT, MI – Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton says that justice has been served with the murder conviction today of a Detroit man in the beating death of another man last year in Flint.

Edwin Ford III, 19, of Detroit, was found guilty of First Degree Premeditated Murder by a Genesee County jury in the brutal death of Ronny Morris, 18, also of Detroit, in the early morning hours of November 16, 2005.

Testimony from the trial showed Ford beat Morris to death with a club after the two had argued over who was going to sleep on the couch. After he finished beating Morris, who was asleep on the couch when the attack began, Ford placed a gun in Morris' dead hand in an attempt to create a self-defense argument and then removed the gun from the scene. Ford also tried to clean up the scene before he fled and left the club he used to beat Morris on Morris' broken arm.

“The jurors in this case saw the claim of self-defense for what it was: a self-serving attempt to change the facts of the case in favor of the defendant,” said Leyton after the verdict. “Justice prevailed today and I expect the defendant will now face the rest of his life behind bars for his horrific and senseless act.”

A sentencing date has been set for August 18th before Genesee County Circuit Court Judge Geoffrey Neithercut.

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