



Genesee County Prosecutor's Office David Leyton, Prosecutor



Triple Murder Trial to Resume This Week

June 4, 2007

FLINT -- Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton said that the 3-jury trial against three men charged with the brutal January 2006 slayings of three elderly Flint residents will resume this week, beginning on Tuesday.

Three different juries have been listening to testimony simultaneously in Circuit Court Judge Joseph J. Farah's courtroom for the past two weeks in the trials of Jerry O. Walker, 18, Demitray L. Hodge, 27, and Sherman Buggs, 24. The three face dozens of charges including first-degree premeditated murder, felony murder, armed robbery, home invasion, conspiracy, carjacking, arson, and weapons charges.

The three men are charged in the murders of Green and Catherine Wedlow, ages 75 and 74 respectively, who were found shot to death at point-blank range in their City of Flint residence on January 27, 2006. Just two days later, Robert Vondrasek, 75, was found brutally stabbed to death in his home only 8 blocks away from the Wedlows' residence. In addition to having a fractured skull, a slashed throat, and 8 knives in his back when police found him, Vondrasek's home and body were also set on fire by his assailants. The three men are also charged in Vondrasek's death.

There have only been a few such circuit court trials ever held in Genesee County where three separate juries have been seated in the same courtroom at the same time to hear testimony against three different defendants, said Prosecutor Leyton. "It certainly poses unique challenges in presenting evidence and dealing with the cases of three different defendants and their respective defense attorneys at one time in front of three separate juries" he said. "But, I have some of my most experienced and skilled trial attorneys working these cases and I am confident that justice will be served for the Wedlows and Mr. Vondrasek and all the citizens of Genesee County."

The trials are expected to go all this week and might even continue into next, Prosecutor Leyton said.

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