



# Genesee County Prosecutor's Office

## David Leyton, Prosecutor



### **Driver Sentenced in Traffic Death of Marine**

June 11, 2007

FLINT -- A Clio man who previously pled guilty in the fatal hit-and-run death of a U.S. Marine was sentenced today in Genesee County Circuit Court according to Prosecutor David Leyton.

Bryan J. Abbott, 23, of Clio, was sentenced to 5 years probation with one year in the County Jail and 6 months on electronic tether by Circuit Court Judge Judith A. Fullerton. Abbott pled guilty in May to leaving the scene of an accident causing death, a five-year felony.

Abbott was traveling east on Farrand Road in Vienna Township about 3:30 a.m. Jan. 13 and struck Ricky Salas, Jr. from behind. Abbott said he was driving on Farrand Road when he came over a hill and saw Salas walking in the middle of the road. Police reports indicate that Salas had been drinking earlier in the evening at a wedding reception and was walking in the road after he apparently had lost control of his own car in icy conditions.

Mitchell D. Manwell, a friend of Abbott's who was in another vehicle passing by the scene immediately after the accident had happened, is charged with failure to stop at the scene of an accident causing death and being an accessory after the fact to a felony. Police reports and testimony at an earlier court hearing indicate that Manwell had advised Abbott to leave the scene in an apparent cover-up of sorts. Manwell was an off-duty Flint police officer at the time who has since lost his job as a result of his role in the incident.

"This was a tragic loss to our community which resulted from the poor judgment of all involved," commented Prosecutor Leyton after the sentencing. "And while it is true that Mr. Salas was walking in the middle of the road at 3:30 in the morning, justice required that Mr. Abbott be held accountable under the law for his actions."

###