



# Genesee County Prosecutor's Office

## David Leyton, Prosecutor

### Flint Man Pleads Guilty in Slaying at Nail Salon

**MLive.com – The Flint Journal**  
**Sunday, January 06, 2008**  
**By Paul Janczewski**

A masked gunman who fired a shotgun in a Flint Township nail salon in 2004 during a botched robbery, killing one of the owners, pleaded guilty to second-degree murder.

Thurman Jones, 23, of Flint, calmly told a judge he entered the T Nails salon in Jo Jo's Plaza on Corunna Road near I-75 on Sept. 15, 2004, demanded cash and then blasted a man with his 12-gauge shotgun.

Genesee Circuit Judge Joseph J. Farah scheduled a Feb. 5 sentencing for Jones, who is being held in the Genesee County jail without bond.

Jones' plea came shortly after Farah ruled that prosecutors could use at trial a videotaped statement Jones made while in custody at the Flint Township Police Department.

Jones was originally charged with open murder, felony murder, assault with intent to rob while armed and felony firearms use in the slaying of Joe Nau Dang. Police said Dang was shot in the back as he tried to shield his son from the gunman.

Prosecutors amended one murder charge to second degree and dismissed another, along with the assault charge, in exchange for Jones plea.

At an earlier hearing, Lisa Le said the masked gunman pointed a gun at her head and demanded cash

Le, an immigrant from Vietnam, said she, husband Joe Nau Dang, their 8-year-old son and two customers were in the store as the couple prepared to close at 8:30 p.m.

Seconds later, Le said she heard a loud noise and saw her husband lying in a pool of blood as the masked intruder fled through a back door without any cash.

Dang, 38, a Vietnamese-American, died from a shotgun blast in his back.

Flint Township police linked Jones to the slaying after a van used as Jones' getaway vehicle was involved in a crash in Flint a short time later.

Police found a shotgun inside, along with a cellphone, state identification card and bank receipt belonging to Jones.

