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Five Convictions in Travis County Cases This Week

The Travis County criminal courthouse was busy this week with four different juries returning guilty verdicts and a plea of guilty to a lengthy prison term in another case.

On Monday of this week, in front of Judge Cliff Brown, a jury returned for a second week of testimony in the murder trial of 18-year old Jalen Rey Veliz. Prosecutors Victor Erbring and Jeremy Sylestine presented evidence that Veliz shot and killed 19-year old Isaac Morey as part of a planned robbery in April 2018 that had been set up using social media. In under four hours of deliberations, the jury found Veliz guilty of Murder. The jury went on to decide the punishment of the Defendant and heard emotional testimony from the victim's mother who told the jury the hardest part has been watching her young 6-year old daughter try to use the phone to call her deceased brother in heaven. The jury sentenced Veliz to 24 years in prison.

In another Travis County courtroom, a jury sentenced Corey Chandler to 12 years in prison after finding him guilty of Sexual Assault on Thursday of this week. On May 7, 2017, Corey Chandler approached a woman sleeping in her car outside of an after-hours club. He entered the vehicle and sexually assaulted her. The victim immediately outcried and went to the hospital to have a sexual assault examination. Chandler was later identified as a suspect after a search from a statewide DNA database positively connected him to physical evidence taken from the scene. Following his arrest, Chandler claimed to have had a consensual sexual encounter with the victim. The State was represented at trial by prosecutors Josh Somers and Laurie Drymalla.

Also on Thursday, another jury returned a guilty verdict in the Aggravated Assault trial of 52-year old Juan Deltoro. In June 2018, officers from the Austin Police Department responded to a call about a man kicking an unconscious man on the sidewalk in South Austin. Surveillance video later showed that Deltoro punched the victim, knocking him to the ground rendering him unconscious. The video showed Deltoro kicking the victim with steel-toed boots as he lay defenseless. The victim was found unresponsive at the scene and transported to South Austin

Medical Center where he later succumbed to his injuries. During the punishment phase of the trial, prosecutors Victoria Winkeler and Devin Falck introduced evidence of Deltoro's previous convictions for other assaultive offenses. Judge Urrutia sentenced Deltoro to 28 years in prison. Both the victim and the defendant were homeless individuals.

A fourth jury found 19-year old Kimberly Orozco guilty of Aggravated Assault in the 390th District Court in front of visiting Judge Bob Perkins. Orozco was on trial as a party/co-defendant to a shooting that occurred in June 2017 that resulted in the death of Mariano Gonzalez-Lopez and left Juan Jesus Gonzalez-Lopez seriously injured. Prosecutors Andrea Austin and Allison Tisdale presented evidence that Orozco had helped set up the encounter that led to the shooting ambush of the victims while they were helplessly trapped in their vehicle. The shooter, Jose Morales, was convicted earlier this year in a separate jury trial and sentenced to 50 years in prison. The jury found Orozco guilty of Aggravated Assault as a party to the crime but could not reach a unanimous verdict on the second charge of Murder. Following the verdict, the State and Defense entered into a negotiated sentence of 8 years in prison on the Aggravated Assault charge.

Another case resulted in a plea of guilty to the offense of Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Child in exchange for a 20-year prison sentence before Judge Cliff Brown. Thirty-eight year old Pedro Jaramillo-Osorio pled guilty to sexually assaulting his stepdaughter starting when she was 7 years old and continuing until she was 9 years old. It was not until 2017, when the child wrote an essay during her high school years about being sexually abused, that the crime came to light. Although the outcry was approximately 10 years delayed, the child was able to articulate various forms of sexual abuse and violence by the Defendant. Following the plea, the victim thanked prosecutor Amber Platt for all the time and effort the DA's Office put into this case and stated she was relieved to not have to testify in a trial. She further stated, "thank you so much for giving me a chance to live without feeling like I have to watch over my shoulder."

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