



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Stanislaus County

832 12th Street, Suite 300
Modesto, CA 95354

Mailing: P. O. Box 442, Modesto, CA 95353
Phone: (209) 525-5550 Fax: (209) 525-5545

Birgit Fladager
District Attorney

Carol Shipley
Assistant District Attorney

Chief Deputy District Attorneys

Jerry Begen
Steve Casey
John Goold
Dave Harris

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: John Goold

Date: March 20, 2007

Re: Jermaine Dean, Tommy Nichols & Kevin Trice

Phone: 209-525-5550

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Jermaine Dean, Tommy Nichols & Kevin Trice, of Pasadena California were convicted on Friday, March 16th, 2007 of Murder in the First Degree, after a fifty two day jury trial that began last November in Department 7 of the Stanislaus County Superior Court before Judge Donald Shaver. Deputy District Attorney Doug Maner prosecuted the case on behalf of the People.

On March 2, 2002, JoJo Ruiz where was shot and killed during a robbery at his residence in Modesto. Evidence presented during trial suggested that Ruiz was targeted due to a large amount of money and illegal drugs that he kept in his home. During the robbery, Ruiz was able to obtain a weapon and shoot at one of his attackers. Defendant Trice was found in Atwater shortly after the crime with a gunshot wound to his abdomen. Trice claimed to be the victim of a random drive by shooting. Other evidence at trial showed that the defendants were active members of a Los Angeles based criminal street gang.

After almost four months of testimony, the jury took less than five hours to reach a guilty verdict. All three defendants were convicted of Murder with the special circumstance of committing murder in the course of a robbery, 2 counts each of robbery and false imprisonment, as well as gang and gun enhancements.

A court trial is pending next week regarding prior convictions on two of the defendants. Sentencing is scheduled for sometime in late April.

###