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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: November 21, 2008
Re: People v. Paul Michael Ruiz
Modesto Burglar Sentenced to 30 years
In State Prison

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that convicted burglar/thief, Paul Michael Ruiz, who is a Two Striker under the California Three Strikes sentencing law, was sentenced today by the Honorable Scott T. Steffen to a total of 30 years in state prison. Ruiz will have to serve 80% of his sentence since he is a Two Striker. Judge Steffen remanded Ruiz for immediate delivery to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation following sentencing.

In Case Numbers 1083929 and 1094877, which were consolidated for jury trial, Ruiz was convicted by a jury of two residential burglaries, being a felon in possession of a firearm, auto theft, possession of methamphetamine, and five counts of possession of stolen property. All of the stolen property recovered from Ruiz came from recent home burglaries in Modesto. Ruiz was sentenced to a total of 27 years and four months on this case. The lead investigators were Modesto Police Detectives Scott Ussery and Eric Jones.

In Case Number 1088708, a case which also went to jury trial, Ruiz was convicted of possession of a stolen car. Ruiz was caught driving the stolen Saturn automobile which had been stolen 10 days earlier. It had been repainted and the VIN plate on the dashboard had been removed and replaced with a VIN plate from a different car. He was using a Toyota ignition key which had been modified in such a manner that it could be used to operate the Saturn. In his pants pocket was a key ring with several more modified car keys. Ruiz was sentenced to 16 months in prison consecutive to his other cases. The arrest and subsequent investigation on this case was by California Highway Patrol Officers Tim Green and Matt Gisler.

In Case Number 1094604, Ruiz pled no contest to possession of stolen property. A search of a house he was renting produced several items of property which had been stolen in recent home burglaries. Ruiz was sentenced to 16 months in prison consecutive to his other cases. The lead investigator on this case was Detective Scott Ussery.

These cases were prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney John Goulart.