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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: March 13, 2009
Re: Sean Benge – Murderer gets
25 years to life without parole

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Sean Benge, age 30, of Turlock, was sentenced by Judge Scott Steffen on March 13, 2009 to a term of 25 years-to-life without the possibility of parole for his November 14, 2008 conviction by jury of first degree murder with the special circumstance of lying in wait. He was sentenced to an additional term of 25 years-to-life for the enhancement of personally using a firearm causing great bodily injury or death. Deputy District Attorney Carolyn Matzger prosecuted the case for the People.

Sean Benge's uncle, Jerry Benge, had been having a relationship with Katherine Brown, the wife of victim Steven Brown. Jerry Benge was very involved in the lives of the Brown children, as well. Jerry Benge told his nephew, Sean Benge, that he wished Steven Brown was out of the picture. Jerry told Sean that he wanted him to "whoop Steven's ass." On January 4, 2005, Sean Benge rode a stolen motorcycle over to Steven Brown's house in Ceres, parked it at the vacant house next to Steven's house, and walked over to Steven's house. He entered the house through an unlocked sliding glass door and waited for Steven to come home. He was carrying a shotgun that Jerry had sold him, which was now sawed-off. When Steven Brown came home through the sliding glass door, Sean Benge shot him three times, killing him. Sean Benge ran out of the house and, minutes later, two of Steven Brown's children arrived home from school and found their father lying on the floor.

Jerry Benge was sentenced to the maximum term of 11 years on February 27, 2009 following his conviction by jury of voluntary manslaughter for his role in the slaying.

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