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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Date: April 7, 2006
Re: Shelli Athena Thomason

Contact: Carol Shipley,
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Modesto, California – Stanislaus County Assistant District Attorney Carol Shipley announced today that Shelli Athena Thomason, age 39, of Modesto, was convicted of causing injury while driving under the influence of alcohol and causing injury while driving with a blood alcohol level of .08% or more, misdemeanors, in violation of the California Vehicle Code, after a jury trial on April 6, 2006. Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey Laugero prosecuted the case and Judge Susan D. Siefkin presided.

The case arose out of events which occurred on October 27, 2005, in the city of Modesto. Thomason collided with a vehicle driven by Marina Garcia on 17th Street at H Street. Garcia and one of her passengers, Michael Figueiredo, were injured in the collision. A one year old child in a car seat was uninjured. When exchanging information at the scene, Garcia and Figueiredo saw that Thomason was unsteady as she walked and had the odor of an alcoholic beverage on her breath. Police were called to the scene, but Thomason left prior to their arrival. Shortly after leaving the collision scene, an intoxicated Thomason was reportedly causing a disturbance at a residence in Modesto. Officers located Thomason in the area of the disturbance, identified her as the driver involved in the collision with Garcia, and evaluated her for driving under the influence. Officers Brian Findlen and Jamie Demings of the Modesto Police Department investigated the collision and determined that Thomason had been driving while under the influence of alcohol at the time of the collision. Thomason was determined to have a blood alcohol level of .19 at the time of her arrest.

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