



# Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

Date: May 6, 2016  
Re: Clay Arthur Harris SC # 243543

### **For More Information Contact:**

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Clay Arthur Harris of Modesto was found unsuitable for parole on May 4, 2016 at a hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings conducted at San Quentin State Prison. Deputy District Attorney Brad Nix appeared at the hearing for the Stanislaus County District Attorney's Office and argued for continued confinement based on the viciousness of the crimes and the defendant's failure to rehabilitate. The Board of Parole Hearings agreed and denied parole for five (5) years.

On December 28, 1992, Clay Harris was sentenced to 40 years to life in state prison for his conviction at jury trial of several crimes from two separate incidents. (Kidnapping and robbery in the first incident and in the second one, murder, robbery, attempted robbery and assault with a deadly weapon.) Deputy District Attorney Brad Nix prosecuted Mr. Harris at the jury trial. On June 14, 1992, Mr. Harris and his codefendant Daniel Utter kidnapped and threatened an elderly victim who had been attending Graffiti night in Modesto. After duct-taping the victim inside his RV, they drove around Modesto selling off his possessions in order to buy rock cocaine. After four hours or so, they left the victim duct-taped in his RV and ran off. On June 18, 1992, the two jumped two transients who were sleeping in a dumpster enclosure in the 5<sup>th</sup> Street alley in Modesto. While Mr. Harris held a knife to his victim's throat, his codefendant hit Ronald Jorgansen in the head with a piece of concrete then stabbed him in the chest. Next, while Mr. Harris held the knife to him, Mr. Utter robbed the second victim and stabbed him in the leg. The two took off with the second victim's money. They were arrested a few days later.

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