



# MORGAN COUNTY D.A.

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## 5 Violent Criminals Convicted in Morgan Circuit Court This Week

*press release*

Decatur, AL, Oct. 3, 2014 — Morgan County juries returned guilty verdicts this week in four cases involving crimes of violence. Amanda Westmorland Engle, 36, of Addison, Alabama, was convicted of Assault II, Theft I and Possession of a Pistol by a Drug Addict. Her convictions arise from her role in shooting Samuel Lee Martin, 38, of Hartselle in the chest with a pistol at the Hartselle Exxon located at the corner of Highway 36 and 31 and fleeing the scene in the victim's vehicle. Westmoreland was subsequently arrested in Cullman County. Westmoreland and Martin had traveled to the store together, but an argument arose when the victim refused to take her to Florida.

In an unrelated case, Gary Derone Nance, Jr., 23, Robert Taylor Sykes, 27, and Stancer Yarbrough, 27, all of Courtland were convicted of Robbery I for their participation in an armed robbery of Phillip Jackson of Decatur. The robbery occurred on May 31, 2012, and took place in a moving vehicle in the area of 10th Avenue in Decatur. The apprehension and prosecution of these individuals could not have happened without the cooperative efforts of the Decatur Police Department, the Lawrence County Sheriiff, Gene Mitchell and his deputies, the Trinity, Hillsboro and Courtland Police Departments.

Aleveno Metcalf, 55, of Decatur, entered a guilty plea to Robbery I for an incident which occurred in December of 2013, and involved Metcalf knocking on the door of a residence located in the 800 block of 19th Avenue, S.E., in Decatur, pointing a handgun at the owner, Jose Andres, and demanding money from him. A physical altercation then ensued when the homeowner struck Metcalf causing him to flee the residence. Metcalf was sentenced by Circuit Judge Jennifer Howell to a term of life in prison.

Westmorland is scheduled to be sentenced by Circuit Judge Glenn Thompson on January 7, 2015. Nance, Sykes and Yarbrough are to be sentenced by Circuit Judge Steven Haddock this December. "It was a good week for prosecutors, law enforcement and the people of Morgan County," commented District Attorney Scott Anderson, "I can't say the same for the defendants we faced in the courtroom."

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