



CHRISTIAN COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DATE: FEBRUARY 10, 2011

RE: STATE V. JARED BLACKSHER
10CT-CR00905 and 10CT-CR00470

OZARK, MO - Today Jared Blacksher, dob: 3/25/1988 of Sparta, Missouri plead guilty to burglary in the second degree and forgery for events that took place in March and April of 2010. Jared has been in the Christian County Jail since July 26, 2010 awaiting disposition of his cases.

When Judge Waters appointed the public defender to represent Mr. Blacksher, they objected and asked Judge Waters to reconsider their appointment. When Judge Waters denied their request to reconsider, they filed a Writ of Prohibition against him in the Supreme Court of Missouri. The Supreme Court then issued a preliminary order staying all proceedings until the issue with the public defender was resolved.

On January 25 2011, Christian County Prosecuting Attorney, Amy J. Fite requested the Supreme Court of Missouri allow Judge Orr the authority to accept a plea of guilty from the defendant. On February 8, 2011, the Missouri Supreme Court granted Ms. Fite's request and modified the preliminary Writ allowing Judge Orr to take a plea from Mr. Blacksher. At the time of the plea, Mr. Blacksher was represented by a public defender who still objected to the appointment.

In response to the plea of guilty, Christian County Prosecuting Attorney Amy J. Fite stated, "My job is to see that justice is done, and I do not think it was right for Mr. Blacksher to sit in jail and wait for pending litigation involving the public defender system to be resolved. Mr. Blacksher desired to accept responsibility for his actions and the victims wanted the case resolved. I am glad that both of those goals were accomplished today."

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