



CHRISTIAN COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

AMY J. FITE, PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
Phone: (417) 581-7915 | Fax: (417) 581-7918
www.christiancountyprosecutor.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: AMY J. FITE
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
(417) 581-7915

DATE: JUNE 30, 2011

RE: COURT SETS ASIDE AND VACATES JUDGMENT FOR NEW TRIAL
OF 2009 MURDER CONVICTION

OZARK, MO - Christian County Prosecuting Attorney, Amy J. Fite announced today that 44th Judicial Circuit Judge John Moody set aside his Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order granting a new trial in the 2009 murder conviction of PAULA HALL, dob 7/6/1967 of Sparta, Missouri.

On June 29, 2011 Judge Moody vacated his judgment of June 9, 2011 after having heard evidence presented by Christian County Prosecuting Attorney, Amy J. Fite. The judge originally found that in 2009 the Christian County Prosecuting Attorney's Office committed a discovery violation by failing to notify defense counsel of evidence that a witness had a pending probation violation.

In asking the Court to reconsider his finding that a discovery violation occurred, Christian County Prosecuting Attorney, Amy J. Fite presented the Court with the testimony of Christian County Circuit Clerk Barbara Stillings, Captain Bryan Gillman from the Christian County Jail, Greg Fahrlander of Probation and Parole, and Cindy Bates also of Probation and Parole. The evidence presented showed there was no pending probation violation at the time the witness testified. Additional evidence presented also showed that a violation report did not exist and the alleged discovery violation was likely the result of a simple scrivener's error in the Court record.

In response to the Court setting aside his order for a new trial yesterday, Prosecuting Attorney Amy Fite said the following, "I appreciate Judge Moody's willingness to travel to Christian County from the 44th Circuit to hear evidence and reconsider his original findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order in this matter. As a Prosecutor, it is of paramount importance that the record is accurate, and with the evidence presented yesterday, we were able to demonstrate to the Court that his original findings of fact were based on inaccurate information."

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