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D.A. BROWN: QUEENS MAN CONVICTED OF MURDERING HIS MOTHER-IN-LAW
Faces Up to 25 Years to Life in Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a Queens man was convicted earlier today of the fatal shooting and beating of his 70-year-old mother-in-law inside their Hollis residence.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant is responsible not only for the brutal and vicious murder of his mother-in-law but for robbing his wife and children of her love and shattering their family. My only hope is that those affected by this tragedy can find some degree of solace in today's conviction."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Sydney Sampson, 57, of 105-20 189th Street in Hollis, Queens. Sampson, a school bus driver and part time ambulette driver, was convicted today following a two and one-half week jury trial of second-degree murder and third-degree criminal possession of a weapon.

A jury of five women and seven men deliberated for 10 hours over 3 days before returning a verdict of guilty yesterday before Queens Supreme Court Justice Richard L. Buchter who set a sentencing date of December 5, 2006. The defendant faces up to 25 years to life in prison.

The District Attorney said that, according to the trial testimony, the defendant was involved in an abusive relationship with his wife for several years. The defendant became enraged with his mother-in-law, Olga Prince, 70, accusing her of causing him to lose control and making it difficult to dominate his family. On November 10, 2003, the defendant shot Ms. Prince in the face with a .380 caliber handgun – which shattered her jaw and ribs and perforated her jugular vein – before viciously beating her to death with a 9mm handgun.

Assistant District Attorney Eric Rosenbaum, Chief of the District Attorney's DNA Prosecutions Unit, prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Marjory D. Fisher, Chief of District Attorney Brown's Special Victims Bureau, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Charles A. Testagrossa and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Daniel A. Saunders.

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Note to Editors: Press release e-version posted on www.queensda.org