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D.A. BROWN: QUEENS WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO MANSLAUGHTER
IN 2004 FATAL HAMMER ATTACK ON FATHER

Faces 20 Years In Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a Long Island City woman has pleaded guilty to manslaughter in the bludgeoning death of her father inside their apartment in November 2004.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant has admitted to taking her own father's life by viciously attacking him with a hammer. She leaves behind a young daughter who must now grow up with the knowledge and burden of knowing that her mother was responsible for taking the life of her grandfather with whom she lived. I only hope the defendant rehabilitates herself in prison and that her daughter can grow up to lead a normal life. The defendant's conduct was violent and irresponsible and the sentence to be imposed is, under the circumstances, more than warranted."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Laura Martin, 46, of 34-21 21st Street in Long Island City, Queens. Martin, who has been held without bail since her arrest in November 6, 2004, appeared today before Queens Supreme Court Justice Robert J. Hanophy and pleaded guilty to first-degree manslaughter. Justice Hanophy set sentencing for June 18, 2007, at which time he indicated that he would sentence the defendant to a determinate term of 20 years in prison.

The District Attorney said that, in pleading guilty, the defendant admitted that she caused the death of her father, John Martin, 67, on the evening of November 3, 2004, by repeatedly striking him in the head with a hammer inside their first-floor apartment at the Ravenswood House Development, located at 34-21 21st Street in Long Island City. Afterwards, as her father's body lay on the couch, she went out to buy drugs. She later reported to the police that her father was killed during a break-in at their apartment.

The investigation was conducted by Detective Michael E. Gaine, of the New York City Police Department's 114th Precinct Detective Squad, under the supervision of Lieutenant Brian Maguire and the overall supervision of former Chief of Detectives George F. Brown.

Assistant District Attorney Frank P. DeGaetano, Supervisor of the District Attorney's Special Victims Bureau, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Marjory D. Fisher, Chief, and Kenneth M. Appelbaum and Lucinda C. Suarez, Deputy Chiefs, 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 at www.queensda.org.