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**D.A. BROWN: MAN SENTENCED IN 1986 MURDER OF ACQUAINTANCE**

*Receives Penalty of 20 Years To Life In Prison*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a 54-year-old former Queens resident has been sentenced to 20 years to life in prison for the murder of his neighbor in November 1986 in which the victim was shot nine times. The defendant had been a fugitive until he was discovered living in California in 2006.

District Attorney Brown said, "This was a senseless murder that left two little girls without a father and a wife without her husband. After 21 years, I am happy to say that justice has finally been done."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Victor Clemente Jr., 54, of San Francisco, California. The defendant was sentenced today by Queens Supreme Court Justice Richard L. Buchter to 20 years to life in prison after being convicted of second-degree murder earlier this month.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to trial testimony, the victim, Fred Drapete, 32, lived in the basement apartment of 160-16 79<sup>th</sup> Avenue, a house owned by the defendant's mother. Drapete and Clemente were arguing about the purchase of an airplane ticket to the Phillipines when Clemente shot Drapete in the arm with a defaced 9mm handgun. He then shot the victim an additional eight times about his body. Part of the shooting was witnessed by Drapete's young daughters, who were four and five years old at the time.

The case was set for trial on March 31, 1988, but the trial judge dismissed the indictment as a result of the unavailability of the only two eyewitnesses known at that time, the defendant's mother and sister. The People appealed and on May 22, 1989, the indictment was reinstated. The defendant fled the jurisdiction but was found after he was fingerprinted in connection with a job that he had applied for in California. He was returned to Queens on December 8, 2006.

The case was investigated by retired Detective Frank Ahern, formerly of the 107<sup>th</sup> Precinct Detective Squad and retired Detective Pete Fiorillo, formerly of the Queens Homicide Squad, as well as Cold Case Squad Detectives Wendall Stratford and Dexter Honora.

Assistant District Attorney Karen L. Ross, of the Homicide Trials Bureau, prosecuted the case under the direct supervision of Brad Leventhal, Bureau Chief, and Jack Warsawsky, Deputy Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Charles Testagrossa, Executive Assistant District Attorney, Major Crimes Division, and Daniel Saunders, Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney. Senior Assistant District Attorney Alix F. Kucker, of the District Attorney's Grand Jury Bureau, assisted in the prosecution, under the Supervision of Eugene F. O'Neill, Bureau Chief and Floyd D. Herring, Deputy Bureau Chief.

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**Note to Editors: Press release e-version posted on [www.queensda.org](http://www.queensda.org)**