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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: 12/15/08
Re: People v. John Dominguez
Sixteen years to life for second degree murder

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that JOHN CHARLES DOMINGUEZ, age 36, of Modesto, was sentenced by the Honorable Judge Timothy Salter to 16 years to life in state prison after having been found guilty by a jury on April 9, 2008, of second degree murder and that he used a deadly weapon. Deputy District Attorney Wendell Emerson prosecuted the case for the People. The delay in sentencing was due to a motion for new trial and the appointment of a new defense attorney. The new defense attorney needed time to order the transcript and file the motion which was heard on 12/12 and denied.

The case arose out of events which occurred on February 16, 2006 in the city of Modesto. At around 11:30 pm on that date, Modesto Police officers were dispatched to a disturbance in the 1200 block of Pine Tree Lane. Upon arrival, officers discovered the victim, 38 year old Richard Chavez, lying in the front yard of a residence with a fatal blunt force injury to his head.

Witnesses at the trial testified that Chavez and Dominguez had an argument several minutes prior to the murder. After the argument, Chavez fled and Dominguez gave chase. During the chase, Chavez fell down in a yard located in the 1200 block of Pine Tree Lane. Dominguez approached Chavez and fatally struck him in the head with a 3 to 4 foot piece of pipe.

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