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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Re: People v. Elmar Scott, Rashod Bledsaw,
and Dashelle Harris - Robbery and
Assault Convictions

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Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Elmar Scott, age 33, Rashod Bledsaw, age 31, and Dashelle Harris, age 33, all of Fresno, were convicted after a three-week jury trial of three counts of robbery, assault with a firearm, stealing over \$50,000 and other counts stemming from the August 24, 2005 robbery of the Valley First Credit Union in Turlock. Deputy District Attorney John R. Mayne prosecuted the case for the people.

Evidence at the trial showed that Scott and Bledsaw entered the credit union wearing masks and carrying semi-automatic handguns and ordering employees to take them to the vault. One passerby of the bank was also forced to go to the vault. The two took over \$85,000 in cash from the vault.

They were then seen jumping over a cinderblock wall and into the trunk of a tan Buick. During that period of time, one of the robbers threatened an onlooker with his gun.

Shortly afterward, Turlock Police Department Sgt. Craig Bothe spotted a vehicle meeting that description and followed it at speeds of up to 100 miles per hour. Other agencies joined in the pursuit and the car was stopped at a gas station on Briggsmore Avenue in Modesto.

Defendant Harris was driving the car. Scott and Bledsaw were found in the trunk with the money, guns, clothes and masks involved in the robbery.

Defendants Scott and Bledsaw were convicted of three counts of robbery, all with personal use of a firearm and a taking of over \$50,000. They were also convicted of four counts of assault with a semi-automatic weapon.

Defendant Harris was convicted of three counts of robbery, two counts of assault with a semi-automatic weapon, and enhancements on all charges that she was aware that at least one of her co-conspirators was armed with a firearm.

The Honorable Scott T. Steffen, who presided over the trial, set a court trial on the defendants' prior convictions for April 10, 2009. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled at that time.

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