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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Date: December 12, 2008

Re: Two Life Sentences for Porter

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Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced that Howard Douglas Porter, 57, of Hickman was sentenced to consecutive life sentences for the attempted murder and murder of Frank Craig. Mr. Porter had previously been convicted by a jury on these charges after a 12-week jury trial on August 4, 2008. Deputy District Attorney John R. Mayne and Deputy District Attorney John Baker prosecuted the case for the People.

Porter was sentenced to life without parole for the April 22, 2004 premeditated murder of Frank Craig, which was found to be for financial gain and to silence a witness. Porter drove Mr. Craig into the Ceres Main Canal where he drowned.

Porter was sentenced to a consecutive term of twelve years to life for the March 5, 2002 attempted murder of Mr. Craig causing great bodily injury. Porter drove a vehicle with Mr. Craig as a passenger into a tree; Mr. Craig received massive injuries from that crash.

Porter was also sentenced to five years consecutive to the other charges for theft from an elder. Porter will never be eligible for parole.

Porter was ordered to pay \$1.24 million in restitution; that amount included \$820,000 in money stolen from Mr. Craig, and \$420,000 in medical expenses from the first collision. The Honorable Thomas Zeff, who presided over the sentencing, ordered that restitution be paid to the State Victims Compensation Fund.

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