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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Date: February 18, 2009 Carol Shipley, Assistant District Attorney

Re: Michael Villegas convicted of Robbery Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Michael Villegas, age 19, of Modesto, was convicted after a four-day jury trial of Robbery. Deputy District Attorney Wendell Emerson prosecuted the case for the People.

The case arose out of events which occurred on August 12, 2007, when Villegas and two other individuals entered a METRO PCS cell phone store at the corner of Standiford Ave. and Prescott. One of the suspects was armed with a handgun. The defendant and the two other individuals then took property from the store and from the clerk. The defendant was 17 at the time of the offense, but was tried as an adult.

The Honorable Scott Steffen, who presided over the trial, scheduled sentencing for March 5th, 2009. Villegas faces a maximum sentence of five years in state prison.