



Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

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CASE OF INTEREST

DATE: June 19, 2015

CASE: David A. Romero

PROSECUTOR: Deputy District Attorney Donell Slivka, Homicide Unit

District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert announced today that the Honorable Marjorie Koller sentenced David A. Romero to life in prison without the possibility of parole plus 25 years to life. On May 5, 2015, a jury convicted Romero of first-degree murder with the special circumstance that the murder was committed in the course of a robbery. The jury also found that Romero used a firearm in the course of that murder.

Thu Lan Tran worked as the office manager for her brother's security business. On June 27, 2014, Romero went into the business and shot Ms. Tran behind the ear, killing her. He then took her laptop bag, which contained cash, paychecks and check books. The owner of a shop across the street saw Romero leave the business carrying the victim's laptop bag. He went to check on Ms. Tran and found her face down on the ground in a pool of blood. He ran to his car to try to locate Romero. He spotted Romero in a van and followed him while calling 911. He was able to get most of the license plate. Sacramento police investigators utilized those partial license plate numbers to identify the van and Romero. At Romero's apartment, police found hidden cash matching the cash taken in the robbery.

During questioning, Romero and his girlfriend were left alone and the two whispered to each other about the facts of the murder. In that conversation, Romero stated that the police would have to let him go because there was no evidence as he had burned all of it.