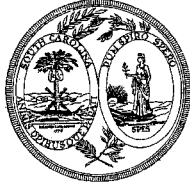


State of South Carolina
Solicitor, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

Telephone: 864-467-8647
Telefax: 864-467-8610



Greenville County Courthouse
305 E. North Street, Suite 325
Greenville, SC 29601-2185

Solicitor
W. Walter Wilkins

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

January 31, 2014

**Pickens Man Sentenced on Traffic / Hit And Run, Duties Of Driver Involved In
Accident With Death**

Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins states that RUFUS RAIDEN III, age 41, was convicted on January 30, 2014 by a Pickens County jury of Traffic / Hit And Run, Duties Of Driver Involved In Accident With Death, and sentenced to twenty five years in the South Carolina Department of Corrections by the Honorable G. Edward Welmaker. RUFUS RAIDEN III will have to serve at least 85% of the 25 year sentence before he becomes eligible for parole.

Evidence presented at the trial by Assistant Solicitor Doug Richardson established that on December 10, 2011, RUFUS RAIDEN III was driving a 1993 Chevrolet pickup truck on Highway 8 in Pickens County when he crossed the center line causing his vehicle to strike a Chevrolet cavalier driven by Ryan Crane. Ryan Crane died of blunt force trauma as a result of the collision. Mr. Raiden fled the scene of the accident on foot without contacting any emergency personnel. He further failed to render any aid to Mr. Crane. Mr. Raiden was arrested approximately twenty four hours later at a bus station in Columbia, South Carolina where he was attempting to flee to California. Ryan Crane was 24 years old at the time of his death.