

State of South Carolina
Solicitor, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

April 12, 2012

COLD CASE PLEADS GUILTY TO VOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER

Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins states that DARNELL JEROME GUYTON pled guilty to Voluntary Manslaughter on Thursday, April 12, 2012 and was sentenced to ten years in the South Carolina Department of Corrections by The Honorable Letitia H. Verdin.

Evidence presented at the plea hearing by Assistant Solicitor Sylvia Harrison established that on November 24, 1977 Thomas George Bikas was struck during a robbery and died as a result to a blow to the head. This death was a cold case recently solved by the Greenville Police Department. The State, with the support of the victim's family, made the sentencing recommendation to the Court based on the Defendant's age, health and the applicable law at the time of the crime. Detective Garrison with the Greenville Police Department hopes that closing a case after 34 years will give the victim's family a resolution for this terrible crime and tragedy.