



J. HANLEY

WINNEBAGO COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

PRESS RELEASE
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State's Attorney J. Hanley

Winnebago County State's Attorney J. Hanley announces **Eric L. Brown, Jr. (DOB: 8/26/1991)** was found guilty of First Degree Murder, Armed Robbery and Armed Habitual Criminal after a bench trial in front of the Honorable Judge Ronald White.

On October 15, 2019, Rockford Police Officers responded to 4874 Harrison Avenue after a report of a shooting. Upon arrival, officers located an adult male, near the front entrance to an apartment, with gunshot wounds. The male was identified as Robert Wash. Wash was transported to a Rockford Hospital where he died as a result of his injuries. During the investigation, detectives learned that Wash arrived at the apartment complex shortly after an armed robbery had occurred there. When he, and the residents inside were attempting to leave, Wash was shot. Evidence presented during the trial showed that Wash was shot by the defendant, Eric Brown. Witnesses to both the armed robbery and shooting identified Brown as the suspect during a photo lineup.

First Degree Murder is a Class M Felony. Due to a firearm being used, the offense was punishable by 35 - 75 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections to be served at 100% and be followed by a term of mandatory supervised release of 3 years. Judge White found the firearm enhancement allegation was proven beyond a reasonable doubt, making Brown eligible for an additional 15 years in the Department of Corrections.

Armed Robbery is a Class X Felony that is punishable by a sentence of 6–30 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections followed by 18 months of Mandatory Supervised Release. Judge White also found the firearm enhancement allegation for this offense was proven beyond a reasonable doubt, making Brown eligible for an additional 15 years in the Department of Corrections.

Armed Habitual Criminal is a Class X Felony that is punishable by a sentence of 6–30 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections followed by three years of Mandatory Supervised Release.



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Brown is scheduled to be back in court at 1:00pm on January 31, 2024 for a status hearing in front of the Honorable Judge White in Courtroom 316 of the Winnebago County Courthouse.

The Rockford Police Department conducted the investigation in this case. Assistant State's Attorney Taylor Nesbit and First Assistant Ken LaRue handled the prosecution.

CONTACT PERSON:

J. Hanley, Winnebago County State's Attorney