

# Man to appeal conviction in slaying

*Beacon Journal staff report*

A 27-year-old Atwater man found guilty last month of hiring someone to kill his ex-girlfriend will appeal his conviction and life sentence.

An attorney for David G. Thorne filed a notice to appeal yesterday with the 5th District Court of Appeals.

Michael R. Puterbaugh will represent Thorne in the appeal.

Thorne was convicted in Stark County Common Pleas Court Jan. 25 of complicity to aggravated murder for the March 31, 1999, death of Yvonne Layne, 26, of Alliance. Authorities said Thorne wanted to gain custody of their child and avoid child support.

Thorne faced a possible death sentence for hiring a 19-year-old

Ravenna man to slash Layne's throat, but the jury couldn't decide which of three life sentences to give him.

Judge Richard D. Reinbold Jr. declared a mistrial for the sentencing portion of the trial and sentenced Thorne to life in prison with no parole.

Thorne has been committed to the Lorain Correctional Facility.