



COUNTY OF YOLO
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
JEFF W. REISIG, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

301 SECOND STREET - WOODLAND, CALIFORNIA 95695 - 530.666.8180 - FAX 530.666.8185

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: November 1, 2010 **Contact:** Jonathan Raven, Chief Deputy District Attorney
Email: jonathan.raven@yolocounty.org

Judge Sentences Sacramento Man to Prison for Elder Abuse
Willie Vains, Jr. Goes to Prison for Six Years for Stealing \$17,000 from Elder Davis Woman

(Woodland, CA) – November 1, 2010- Yolo County District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced that on October 28, 2010, Yolo County Superior Court Judge Kathleen White sentenced 49 year old Sacramento man, Willie Vains, Jr., to six years in prison for his part in stealing \$17,000 from an elder resident of Davis, California.

Vains and a partner had charged an elderly woman in Davis over \$17,000 for supposed "handyman work." Most of the work was never done while some of the work was completed at a value of little more than \$1,000. The two suspects also physically intimidated the victim to get her to pay them the money. Vains had engaged in a similar scam in the 90's involving three elder victims. During this scam he took more than \$34,000 and also burglarized the elderly woman's home.

During a court hearing, Deputy District Attorney Ryan Couzens told Judge White that "Willie Vains, Jr. is a stone cold predator who preys on elders." After the hearing, Judge White denied a motion to dismiss a prior "strike" offense against Vains and sentenced him to six years in state prison. Vains' partner, Claude Gaither, was sentenced to four years in prison for his role in the theft earlier this year.

"This case would not have been possible without the vigilance of friends and neighbors who discovered the victim was being scammed," commented District Attorney Jeff Reisig. Reisig also praised Davis Police Department detectives who spent months working up the case.

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