



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: April 24, 2013 **Contact:** Jonathan Raven, Chief Deputy District Attorney
Phone: Jonathan.raven@yolocounty.org

West Sacramento Man Convicted of Robbery
Joseph Coleman robbed 3 victims shooting one

(Woodland, CA) – April 24, 2013 - District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced that on April 18, 2013, a Yolo County jury found 22-year-old West Sacramento man Wendell Joseph Coleman guilty of three counts of robbery and three counts of assault with a firearm. The jury also convicted Coleman of six enhancements for personal use of a firearm during the commission of those crimes.

On June 14, 2011, Coleman met with the victims Nick Gartiez, Darien Williams, and Max Williams for a marijuana deal. The victims reported, and phone records confirmed, that the marijuana deal was set up through multiple phone calls between the victim Nick Gartiez and Coleman. After multiple conversations and changed locations Coleman and his unidentified crime partner met with all three victims in the parking lot of an apartment complex located at 425 Maple Street in West Sacramento.

Coleman and his partner approached victim Gartiez about the marijuana transaction, left briefly, and then returned with guns drawn. Coleman and his partner robbed all three victims at gun point for cell phones. When Gartiez refused to give up his property, Coleman's partner pistol whipped Gartiez in the face with the gun and then shot him in the knee. Both Coleman and his partner fled the scene. Police contacted Gartiez a few minutes later and transported him to the UC Davis Medical Center for surgery to remove six bullet fragments from his leg.

Deputy District Attorney Amanda Zambor prosecuted the case. She praised the dedicated efforts of the West Sacramento Police Department, the District Attorney's Investigative Unit, the District Attorney's Victim Services Division, Yolo County and Sacramento County Probation Departments, and the Sacramento Sheriff's Department. "This was definitely a team effort by everyone involved in the case," said Zambor. "The countless hours of investigation and research, as well as the Victim Services Division working with the victims through numerous continuances, paid off in the end with a just result for all three victims."

Coleman will be sentenced on May 15, 2013 by the Honorable David Reed, who presided over the trial. Coleman faces up to 25 years and 8 months in state prison.

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