



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

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Contact: Jonathan Raven, Chief Deputy District Attorney

Phone: Jonathan.raven@yolocounty.org

Sacramento Man Convicted of Murder for DUI

Ryan Baird had two prior DUI convictions

(Woodland, CA) – May 14, 2013 - District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced that on May 13, 2013, a Yolo County jury found 23-year-old Ryan Scott Baird, of Sacramento, guilty of 2nd Degree murder for killing Robert Sunderland III on January 6, 2012. The jury also convicted Baird of Gross Vehicular Manslaughter While Intoxicated with 2 prior Driving Under the Influence Convictions, Driving Under the Influence Causing Injury, and Driving with a Blood Alcohol at or above .08 Causing Injury. Additionally, the jury found Baird guilty of enhancements for Causing Great Bodily Injury to Victim Oscar Saeed Rodriguez, Causing Great Bodily Injury with Coma to Victim James Black, and causing injury to multiple victims.

On January 6, 2012, Baird and the three victims were attending a barbeque at victim James Black's house to celebrate his 21st birthday. All four of the young men got into the Baird's 2001 Mitsubishi Eclipse. Baird was the driver and entered I-5 at Main Street in Woodland and exited at County Road 102 where it was calculated that he was traveling between 79 to 94 miles per hour before locking his brakes and launching his car off the side of the road, rolling the car numerous times. All three victims were ejected from the car and the Baird had to be cut out of the driver's seat. Robert Sunderland III died at the scene. James Black was in a coma for multiple weeks and suffered from a severe traumatic brain injury as well as multiple fractures to his pelvis and legs. He underwent numerous surgeries and is currently still living in a rehabilitation facility and undergoing treatment for severe memory loss. Oscar Saeed Rodriguez suffered from a broken arm which required surgery and a fractured back.

This was Baird's third driving under the influence charge and second motor vehicle collision that he had caused as a result of driving under the influence. A breath test at the scene of the crash registered a blood alcohol level of .144 and a blood test done shortly thereafter registered a blood alcohol level of .18, as well as the presence of marijuana. Baird had been warned and acknowledged the fact that driving under the influence was dangerous to human life when he pled no contest in each of his two prior convictions. In addition, Baird had been subject to an alcohol education classes and the study guide from those classes was retrieved from the wreckage of his car, along with a hand written statement within the study guide written prior to this crash expressing the

fact that he knew that driving under the influence is dangerous to human life and could cause death.

Deputy District Attorney, Amanda Zambor, prosecuted the case and stated, "Obviously this is a sad case just based on the age of all the parties involved as well as the long lasting effects on the victims and their families. However, there is no excuse especially with the multiple chances and warnings that the defendant had received prior to this crash. The defendant should have never been behind the wheel of that car and this was a just result based on the defendant's own decisions and complete disregard for anyone's safety on the night on January 6, 2012."

Baird will be sentenced on June 25, 2013 by the Honorable Janet Gaard who presided over the trial. Baird faces up to 29 years to life in state prison.

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