

## **MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH**

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### **Roommate convicted in vicious attack**

(February 23, 2010, Akron) ... Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Christopher B. Simpson, 23, of Akron, was found guilty by a jury of Felonious Assault, a felony of the second degree, and Tampering with Evidence, a felony of the third degree.

Simpson, who was acquitted of one count of Rape, will be sentenced by Judge Mary Margaret Rowlands. Prosecutors immediately requested that the defendant be taken into custody pending his sentencing. The Judge, however, declined to take Simpson into custody and permitted him to remain on bond until his sentencing on March 24 at 1:00 p.m.

On January 31, 2009, Christopher Simpson and a group of friends viciously attacked Simpson's roommate. The victim was repeatedly beaten about the head, doused with urine, and a stick was violently inserted into his rectum (the basis for rape count). At one point during the attack, his face was shoved into a dirty cat litter box. The victim lost consciousness and as a result of the attack was hospitalized for over two weeks. He suffered multiple facial fractures, received cuts and bruises all over his body, required emergency surgery, and was fitted with a colostomy bag.

Walsh said, "I cannot imagine what sort of individual could do something so horrible against another human being. The cruelty and horror inflicted against this victim deserves a harsh prison sentence. The State will ask for the maximum sentence."

At trial, witnesses, the victim, and an accomplice of Simpson testified that Simpson was angry at the victim and was in the process of having him thrown out of their house on Tonawanda Street in Akron. After a night of drinking, Simpson called two friends over who bought marijuana from him. Simpson then instigated the attack on the victim. The victim, who still suffers memory loss, could not identify who raped him. After the attack, Simpson cleaned up the crime scene and removed all of the victim's personal belongings from the house.

An accomplice in the attack, Donald Frano, previously pled guilty to Felonious Assault and testified against Simpson. He will be sentenced on March 10, at 10:00 a.m.

Editors Note: We recognize this release is graphic. However, these types of rapes are underreported and not always understood (i.e., an attack with an object such as this is still rape and male on male).