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December 2, 2008

MADIGAN: KANKAKEE MAN CONVICTED OF DOUBLE MURDER

Chicago — Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan announced today that her office has successfully prosecuted Javar Hollins, 28, of Kankakee, for the March 1999 murders of Lazerick Martin and LaMichael Cox in the course of an armed robbery at a Kankakee residence. A Kankakee County jury found Hollins guilty of two counts of first degree murder, one count of armed robbery and one count of unlawful use of a weapon.

"We are pleased that the jury has found the defendant guilty on all charges," said Attorney General Madigan.

Hollins was originally convicted on the same four counts in April 2004 but the Illinois Appellate Court overturned that conviction in June 2006 based on evidence of jury tampering.

Kankakee County State's Attorney John Boyd referred the retrial of the case to Attorney General Madigan's office. Boyd had served as Hollins' defense attorney in the original case, which represented a conflict of interest.

Kankakee County Circuit Court Judge Clark Erickson set Hollins' sentencing for Jan. 28, 2009.

Senior Assistant Attorney General William Elward and Madigan's Statewide Grand Jury Chicago Bureau Chief John Kezdy prosecuted the case.

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