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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Supreme Court Vacates Court of Appeals Reversal**  
***Court of Appeals to Consider Whether to Reinstate “Rico” Conviction of Former***  
***Restaurant Owner***  
***State v. Eva Christian, 2011-CR-563***

**DAYTON, OH (08/26/2015)** – Montgomery County Prosecuting Attorney Mat Heck, Jr. announced today that the Supreme Court of Ohio vacated the judgment of the Second District Court of Appeals in State v. Eva Christian. Christian staged a burglary and a shooting at her home, as well as arranged to have her failing Cena Restaurant, then located by the Dayton Mall, vandalized and blown-up. Afterwards, she attempted to collect insurance proceeds for the damage that was done. At her trial, the jury found her guilty and the trial judge sentenced her on charges of Insurance Fraud, Making False Alarms, and Engaging in a Pattern of Corrupt Activity.

Last June, the Court of Appeals affirmed the convictions of Insurance Fraud and Making False Alarms. However, in a split decision, the Court of Appeals reversed Christian’s conviction for Engaging in a Pattern of Corrupt Activity, finding that she and the other individuals who helped her carry out her plan and commit the crimes were not part of a criminal enterprise. Judge Michael Hall dissented, finding that the State had proved that a criminal enterprise did exist, which the defendant Christian had constructed and directed.

On August 25, 2015, the Supreme Court of Ohio vacated the Court of Appeals’ judgment and sent the case back for the judges to reconsider their conclusion that Christian’s association with her accomplices, whom she paid to burglarize, vandalize, and fire-bomb her properties for insurance money, did not amount to a criminal enterprise.

Prosecutor Heck continued, “We are pleased that the Supreme Court has found and recognized that a defendant’s actions of creating a group of people to commit serious crimes is Engaging in a Pattern of Corrupt Activity and creates a situation that is more dangerous and can be punished in addition to the other crimes committed.”

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