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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Man Sentenced For Threats Against Assistant Prosecutor**

*State v. James A. Ward, 2015-CR-56*

**DAYTON, OH (11/4/2015)** – Prosecutor Mat Heck, Jr. announced today that 25-year-old **James A. Ward**, was sentenced to 36 months in prison for retaliating against Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Julie Bruns. This sentence will run consecutively to the time remaining on the defendant’s prior sentences.

In 2005 and 2006, Assistant Prosecutor Julie Bruns successfully prosecuted and convicted this defendant in two separate cases for charges including Rape, Attempted Rape, Felonious Assault, Gross Sexual Imposition, Abduction, Aggravated Burglary, Burglary and Kidnapping. The defendant was serving a consecutive, mandatory sentence of 31 years.

In November of 2014, while serving his sentence, the defendant sent a letter to Assistant Prosecutor Bruns telling her that he would have her killed if she did not overturn his convictions.

On November 3, 2015, a jury found the defendant guilty as charged of one count Retaliation and one count Intimidation of an Attorney, both felonies of the third degree. With the additional 36 months, the defendant has 24 years in prison remaining on his sentence.

Assistant Prosecutor Julie Bruns, who is now the Chief of the Juvenile Division, testified during the jury trial and addressed the court at sentencing saying, “ This defendant cannot be allowed to intimidate people. If he managed to alarm and concern me, imagine what he could do to a victim.”

Prosecutor Heck continued, “This case strikes at the heart of the integrity of the criminal justice system. We cannot allow or tolerate defendants intimidating witnesses, victims, police or prosecutors involved in the administration of justice.”

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