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Guilty Verdict for Murder retrial in the strangling of a North Charleston woman

Charleston, S.C. – A Charleston County jury found Oran Lamar Smith (DOB 01/15/1976) guilty of Murder on Thursday afternoon. In his opening argument, Assistant Solicitor Greg Voigt told the jury that on June 3, 2007 Oran Smith used the victim's pajama pants to strangle to death 54-year-old Cheryl Lynn Snow, at an apartment complex in Charleston Farms in North Charleston.

North Charleston Police Department ("NCPD") officers found Snow dead in her apartment after neighbors discovered her door open. Her pajama pants were wrapped around her neck. Oran Smith was an acquaintance of the slain woman.

In June 2009, Circuit Judge Kristi L. Harrington declared a mistrial four days after the trial began. The jury was deadlocked after eight hours of deliberations.

Assistant Solicitors Greg Voigt and Chad Simpson prosecuted the two day murder retrial against Smith. Smith told investigators that he had "just snapped" and choked Ms. Snow. He said that he strangled her to keep her from going to the police. "North Charleston detectives were skillful interrogators and did not stop until they got the truth," Voigt said. Other forensic evidence linked Smith to the crime scene. Voigt told the jury that "this was not a sanitized death, it was brutal, ugly and vicious."

In South Carolina, murder carries a potential sentence ranging from a minimum of 30 years to a maximum of life. Circuit Court Judge R. Markley Dennis Jr., sentenced Smith to 30 years in prison.

Smith criminal record consists of a Possession of Cocaine in 2005 and Concealed Weapon in 1997.

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