

News Release

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Man Convicted of Felony DUI With Death, Sentenced to Twelve Years

Charleston, S.C. – November 2, 2011

A jury convicted 60 year old Walter Douglas Barclay, of Edisto Island, SC yesterday for Felony Driving Under the Influence With Death after a week-long trial. Circuit Judge Deadra Jefferson sentenced Barclay to a term of 12 years with the South Carolina Department of Corrections. Under the sentencing law governing Felony DUI, Barclay must serve at least eighty-five percent (85%) of this sentence before he will be eligible for parole.

Assistant Solicitors Jennifer Kinzeler and Greg Voigt prosecuted the case arising from the December 8, 2008, collision on Point of Pines Road in Edisto Island. Charleston County Sheriff's Office investigated the incident. At about 6:00 p.m. that evening, Barclay drove his Chevy Silverado several feet across the center line into the oncoming lane crashing into Alvaro Garcia who was driving a Geo Prizm. Alvaro died at the scene, while his passenger Jose Davila was airlifted to MUSC for treatment. Davila recovered from his injuries and was able to provide key testimony in the trial. Barclay was also charged with Felony Driving Under the Influence With Great Bodily Injury for Davila's injuries, but the jury found him not guilty of those charges.

Barclay admitted to drinking a "couple beers" at his farm that day. His blood alcohol content was a .20, more than two times the legal limit. An empty bottle of Jim Beam and several cold beers and a cooler were found near Barclay's truck. He was represented by attorney Mark Mason.

Kinzeler stated, "This tragedy occurred between Barclay's home and his farm, within 2 miles of each other, on a road he travelled every day. The gruesome scene really showed the catastrophic effect of drunk driving and highlighted the fact that drinking and driving is a dangerous choice even on short trips and familiar roads."

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