

# *News Release*

For Immediate Release  
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## **JOHN'S ISLAND MAN CONVICTED OF NEW YEARS' NIGHT BURGLARY, SHOOTING**

**Charleston, S.C.**

Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson announced that a Charleston County jury found Christopher Allen Boling (w/m DOB 07-04-1984) guilty of Burglary in the first degree. Boling had been previously convicted of Criminal Domestic Violence, Assault and Battery of a High and Aggravated Nature, as well as other misdemeanors including simple assault. Upon conviction, the Honorable Deidra Jefferson sentenced Boling to fifteen years on this offense, which is classified as "most serious." Assistant Solicitors Emmanuel Ferguson and Jennifer Kneece Shealy prosecuted the case for the Ninth Circuit Solicitor's Office.

In the early morning hours of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 Christopher Boling and Kevin Russell forced their way into the home of Joseph Owens and began assaulting him, Jeanette Watkins, and another man named Tad Dempsey. After the assault took place, the two men left when Ms. Watkins ran to a neighbor's house to call the police. Minutes later, Boling and Russell again forced their way into the home, this time armed with a pistol. After holding a gun to Mr. Owen's head and threatening to kill him, the men again fled when they noticed Charleston County Sherriff's Deputy Michael Buenting approaching the front door. Ignoring the deputy's command to stop, the men split up in the woods, but not before firing two shots at the officer. Deputy Bunting was unharmed, and managed to apprehend Boling. Kevin Russell was found later that night with the help of K-9 officers. He was hiding in the closet of his mother's nearby home, completely unclothed. Deputy Buenting testified that in his training as a K-9 handler Russell may have discarded his clothing in an attempt to avoid detection by K-9 officers, and destroy

gun-shot residue that is sometimes left on clothing. Boling was sentenced to 15 years in prison.

Kevin Russell is currently in the Charleston County Detention Center awaiting trial.

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