Administrative Office of the Courts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 26, 2018

Contact: Barry Massey, communications officer
bmassey@nmcourts.gov
505-827-4805
505-470-3436

STATE SUPREME COURT AFFIRMS CONVICTIONS IN DOUBLE MURDER IN VALENCIA COUNTY

SANTA FE – The state Supreme Court today unanimously upheld the convictions of a Valencia County man for the fatal shootings of a father and daughter and wounding of the mother in 2013.

Jordan Hurd was convicted of two counts of first-degree murder for the deaths of Wesley Hobbs and his daughter, Amanda, at the family's home in the Valencia County community of Jarales. Hurd was convicted of aggravated battery with a deadly weapon for shooting Patricia Hobbs.

The trial court sentenced Hurd to consecutive terms of life imprisonment for the murders, followed by four years in prison for the shooting of the mother.

In his appeal, the defendant contended photographs of the bloody crime scene were wrongly admitted as evidence at trial because the graphic nature made them unfairly prejudicial by inflaming the passions of the jury.

The Supreme Court disagreed.

"The trial court found the photographs to be relevant and then balanced their probative value against the danger of unfair prejudice," the court stated in an opinion written by Justice Gary L. Clingman. "In finding no danger of unfair prejudice substantially outweighing their probative value, the trial court properly admitted the photographs as evidence."

The Supreme Court also rejected Hurd's arguments that there was insufficient evidence to support his convictions and that he was deprived of a fair trial because a requested jury instruction was not allowed by the district court judge.

At the trial, Patricia Hobbs testified that Hurd was among two men who exited a bedroom where her husband was killed and that Hurd was carrying a gun that he used to shoot her and her daughter.

According to other witness testimony, Hurd and two other men visited Wesley Hobbs at the family's home to try to sell a stolen motorcycle and obtain drugs. One man left before gunshots were fired.

###

To read the opinion in *State v, Hurd,* No. S-1-SC-36153 (N.M. Sup. Ct. July 26, 2018) (Non-precedential disposition), please visit the New Mexico Compilation Commission's website using the following link:

http://www.nmcompcomm.us/nmcases/NMSCUnreported/2018/SC36153.pdf