Administrative Office of the Courts

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NM Supreme Court affirms convictions of brothers for fatal shooting in Albuquerque

SANTA FE – The state Supreme Court today unanimously upheld the convictions and sentences of two brothers for a drug-related shooting in Albuquerque that left two dead and two others injured.

Edwin Edsel Ortiz-Parra and Eder Ortiz-Parra were each sentenced to two life sentences plus an additional 54 years in prison. A jury convicted the brothers of two counts of first-degree murder, two counts of attempted murder, conspiracy to commit first-degree murder and kidnapping.

The shooting occurred in August 2016 when the brothers drove to a house in Albuquerque along with a cousin, Rafael Gonzalez-Parra, and a friend, Carlos Almazan-Avila. They blocked a car trying to back out of the driveway. The brothers escorted the car's driver inside the house and opened fire with their handguns. The two other men remained outside along with a woman who was a passenger in the car trying to leave.

The Supreme Court, in separate decisions written by Justice Barbara J. Vigil, rejected all the arguments made by the brothers in their individual appeals, including that Gonzalez-Parra should have been tried separately from them because of conflicts in their theories of defense.

The justices concluded that the jury was not presented with conflicting defenses and the district court judge acted properly in conducting a joint trial. Gonzalez-Parra was convicted of second-degree murder, kidnapping and conspiracy to commit kidnapping, but his convictions were not at issue in today's decisions.

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To read the decisions in *State v. Edwin Edsel Ortiz-Parra*, No. S-1-SC-37093 and *State v. Eder Ortiz-Parra*, No. S-1-SC-37109, please visit the New Mexico Compilation Commission's website using the following links:

State v. Edwin Edsel Ortiz-Parra

State v. Eder Ortiz-Parra