



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL HENRY MCMASTER
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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Convicted Rapist Found Guilty of Threatening Judge

Columbia, S.C. – Attorney General Henry McMaster announced today that John L. McCombs, 49, inmate of the South Carolina Department of Corrections, was found guilty by a jury on July 14, 2004 of Threatening a Court Official, a felony violation of §16-9-340 of the Code of Laws, punishable to ten (10) years imprisonment and/or a \$10,000 fine.

On or about April 1, 2001, McCombs was in prison for the kidnapping, rape, torture and mutilation of a woman on April 18, 1979. In late 2000, he appeared before Circuit Court Judge Diane Goodstein seeking Post Conviction Relief. She did not rule in his favor. McCombs responded by threatening both Judge Goodstein and his court appointed lawyer in a letter to the lawyer. This threat was repeated to a SLED Agent during the ensuing investigation, and was the substance of the charge against McCombs.

Judge James C. Williams, Jr., presiding over the General Sessions Court of Dorchester County, sentenced McCombs to seven (7) years imprisonment.

Originally scheduled for release in 2003, McCombs is also facing civil commitment proceedings under the state's Sexually Violent Predator Statute.

This case was investigated by the State Law Enforcement Division and prosecuted by the Attorney General's Office.

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