



NEWS FROM:
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PD Capital Defense Team Earns Client Life Recommendation



(Pictured, l-r: APD Greg Messore, Paralegal Sue Chamberlain, Paralegal Susy Murrhee, APD Todd Niemczyk, APD Deb Billard, Investigator Holly Ayers, Legal Assistant Lynn Rees, Legal Assistant Nola Choquette)

Jacksonville, FL (March 8, 2011): A Capital Defense team in the Fourth Judicial Circuit Public Defender's Office recently spent countless hours working to prevent a Baker County man accused of murdering a Jacksonville Navy Chief from being sentenced to a wrongful death. On February 15th, at the conclusion of the penalty phase

in *The State vs. Deangelo Thomas*, their hard work proved to be successful when the jury announced execution to be an undeserving form of punishment for Mr. Thomas. Rather than face death, as suggested by the State, Mr. Thomas received a life sentence, which is a punishment that the jury viewed as fitting after listening to testimony from the client's family members and friends.

The Defense team, which was lead by Todd Niemczyk with the help of his co-counsel members, Deb Billard and Greg Messore, orchestrated testimony from the people closest to Mr. Thomas in order to effectively show the jury that their client was deserving of life and a loyal and loving family man who was just involved in a robbery gone bad. In regard to trial team preparation and strategy, lead Defense Attorney Todd Niemczyk stated, "We moved a mountain. Everyone contributed and did their part with pride and professionalism. This case goes to show the stellar result that can be achieved when small, seemingly futile steps are forged together and an incredible result is produced."

The State Attorney's Office is still striving to override the verdict, but the Defense team at the Public Defender's office is prepared to go the extra mile to fight for the justice they feel their clients deserve.
