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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **OAG Prosecution Team Secures Six Convictions within Two Weeks for The People**

*August 8, 2014- Tamuning, Guam*-The Office of the Attorney General's Prosecution Division has been keeping the Superior Court of Guam's jury unit very busy over the past two weeks with eight trials resulting in six convictions.

Kesi Dean Reyes and Jason Jesus Cruz were both convicted the last week of July for the charges brought forth against them in their respective cases.

Reyes was convicted of two counts of family violence as a misdemeanor and faces up to two years' incarceration at the Department of Corrections (DOC).

"This defendant's behavior in the home is intolerable; children should not be subjected to such violence. This conviction reinforces my office's zero tolerance policy for family violence," said Attorney General Leonardo M. Rapadas.

Cruz, a repeat offender, was found guilty by a Superior Court Jury of burglary as a second degree felony and faces anywhere from 5-10 years imprisonment at DOC after breaking into a MongMong game room in March.

"The community is fighting back against individuals who are illegally entering their homes and businesses. With each conviction, our island becomes a safer place," said Assistant Attorney General Nicole Driscoll, who took the case to trial.

Just this week alone, the OAG successfully prosecuted three separate cases that resulted in the conviction of Kurt Damian, Kala Taitague, and Gerard Belga.

Damian was found guilty of theft by receiving stolen property as a second degree felony and eluding a police officer as a misdemeanor after being identified driving a stolen vehicle and leading police on a chase in the Pago Bay area back in March. He faces up to 10 years of imprisonment.

AAG Gerald Henderson who was co-counsel in the Chad DeSoto case, prosecuted and successfully convicted Damian while waiting for a verdict in the DeSoto trial.

Taitague was found guilty of possession of a schedule II substance onboard an aircraft as a first degree felony and possession of a schedule II substance as third degree felony. She faces up to 10 years at DOC.

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Just yesterday, Belga was found guilty of retail theft as a second degree felony after exiting the Home Depot store without paying for power tools with its value totaling in excess of \$1500. Belga faces anywhere from 3 -10 years imprisoned at DOC.

Chad DeSoto, the man responsible for the Tumon Tragedy or Mass Murder and Attempted Murder case, was also found guilty earlier this week of 3 counts of aggravated murder as a first degree felony and eleven counts of attempted aggravated murder as a first degree felony; all carrying special allegations of use and possession of a deadly weapon in the commission of a felony. He faces a maximum of fourteen life imprisonments without the possibility of parole, as well as fourteen counts of 5 - 25 years imprisonment for the special allegation enhancements.

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